JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY
Semester: Spring 2015
Location: Social Sciences 2035
Time(s): Tuesday and Thursday 14:00 – 15:15

Instructor: Dr. Andrew K. Whitehead
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Office: Social Sciences 4097
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday
13:00 – 14:00

Catalogue Course Description:
The course is a survey of Japanese philosophical thought from ancient times to the present including its
cultural, religious, ethical, and aesthetic dimensions. The course provides a broad overview of the
development of Shinto, Confucianism, and Buddhism in the Japanese context, and also examines the
contributions of contemporary Japanese thinkers.

Instructor’s Course Description:
This course introduces students to a selection of major themes and figures in Japanese philosophy. We will
be discussing some of the major schools of thought found in Japanese philosophy, including the Buddhist
traditions of Zen and Pure Land, Shintoism, and a selection from 19th and 20th Century modern academic
philosophy. The approach we will take is historical with respect to primary texts, but contemporary with
respect to the issues and questions discussed.

Course Objectives:
1. Develop an understanding of Japanese philosophical problems, the history of Japanese philosophy,
   and the philosophical methods espoused by different schools of Japanese thought.
2. Question claims made by Japanese philosophers and to learn to test them against available
evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.
3. Learn to appreciate the philosophical import of Japanese culture and thought.
5. Compare the tools and concerns of Japanese philosophy with those of other philosophical and
   non-philosophical approaches and practices.
6. Reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

Course Format:
Classroom sessions will combine formal lectures and informal discussions. Students are encouraged to
participate actively in debate and to raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are
expected to prepare all readings in advance of the sessions for which they are scheduled. Some of the
assigned primary texts are difficult, but will be openly discussed in class and complemented with optional
secondary readings.

Required Reading:

Additional primary readings will be made available online as electronic documents.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required. Students will not be able to succeed in this course without complete attendance.
Responsibility for material covered while absent belongs solely with the student.
Electronic Devices Policy:
Electronic devices are not permitted in class. The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited in class. Students are welcome to use laptops for note-taking purposes only (no web based activity) if necessary. Any violation of this policy will negatively affect students' grades.

Course Assessment:
- Reflective Essay 1 15%
- Reflective Essay 2 15%
- Mid-Term Exam 25%
- Presentation 10%
- Major Term-Paper 35%

***N.B. Late assignments will automatically receive a mark of zero, unless official medical documentation is provided. ***

Description of Assignments:
Reflective Essays: Your reflective essays should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow Turabian (Chicago) citation guidelines (see http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/content.php?pid=364671&sid=2989534). You are required to write 600 (585-615) words on any of the readings discussed to date in class (for Reflective Essay 1, select a reading from week 2, 3 or 4; for Reflective Essay 2, select a reading from week 5, 6, 7, or 8), providing philosophical reflection on a point of your choosing. You are required to discuss and cite at least the primary reading selected and one secondary source. The essays are graded in line with the following rubric:

1) Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument in one of the appropriate readings
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (ア) As outlined above
   (イ) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count at beginning of essay (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited at least one primary text
5) Student has provided a substantial reflection on the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least one secondary text (journal or book).

Mid-Term Examination: There will be a mid-term exam on February 26. It will consist of essay questions concerning the first seven (7) weeks of readings and lectures.

Presentation: All students are required to deliver a presentation on their major term paper. Your presentation should provide a clear and concise articulation of and engagement with your thesis. You are expected to provide handouts for the entire class (including two copies of the handout for the instructor), outlining the major points of your presentation and how it serves to clarify the main points of your research paper. Your presentation should last approximately 10 minutes. The presentation is graded as excellent (15/15), satisfactory (10/15), delivered (5/15), or fail (0/15).

Major Term-Paper: Your major term-paper should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow Turabian (Chicago) citation guidelines (see http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/content.php?pid=364671&sid=2989534). You are required to write 2500 words on a topic of your choosing, which must be approved by the instructor no later than March 31. In order to receive approval, you must schedule a meeting with the instructor and submit the following: a title and thesis statement, along with a provisional bibliography that includes at least three legitimate secondary sources in addition to at least one of the primary readings from class. Essays can be exegetical or critical in nature. The essays are graded according to the grading scale in line with the following rubric:
1) Student has successfully **identified and explained** a significant point or argument pertaining to the theme of the course and the material covered in class, which has been approved by the instructor no less than two weeks before the deadline following a scheduled meeting for thesis approval no less than three weeks before the deadline.

2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (ｱ) As outlined above
   (ｲ) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count on a cover page (these do not count towards the word count)

3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling

4) Student has cited and engaged with at least one primary text that has been approved by the instructor

5) Student has supported (or critiqued) the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least three legitimate secondary texts (journals and/or books).

**Grading Scale:**
Students are evaluated on the following scale:

- **A** — 100 – 90
- **B** — 89 – 80
- **C** — 79 – 70
- **D** — 69 – 60
- **F** — <60

**Academic Integrity:**
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior that a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project they must be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link: [https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures](https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures)

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:
- [http://plagiarism.org/](http://plagiarism.org/)
- [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)
- [http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html](http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html)

**Resources for writing a philosophy paper:**

The KSU Writing Center
A free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, visit [http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/](http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/), or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

**ADA Compliance:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.

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**Topics and Readings (subject to change at the discretion of instructor):**

**Week 1—Jan. 8—Introductions**

**Week 2—Jan. 13 and 15—What is Japanese Philosophy?**

Reading(s): *Sourcebook*, pp.4-28

**Kūkai, Nichiren, and Original Enlightenment Debates (Week 2 – Week 3)**

**Week 3—Jan. 20 and 22—Esoteric and Exoteric Teachings in Kūkai**

Reading(s): *Sourcebook*, pp.51-74

**Week 4—Jan. 27 and 29—Buddha-Nature as Social Transformation**

Reading(s): *Sourcebook*, pp.86-91

Reading(s): *Sourcebook*, pp.92-104

**Zen Buddhism (Week 5 – Week 9)**

**Week 5—Feb. 3 and 5—Dōgen**

**[Reflective Essay 1 Due]**

Reading(s): *Sourcebook*, pp.141-162

**Week 6—Feb. 10 and 12—Dōgen (cont’d)**

Reading(s): *Sourcebook*, pp.141-162

Graham Parkes, Kūkai and Dōgen as Exemplars of Ecological Engagement (online)

**Week 7—Feb. 17 and 19—Hakuin Ekaku and Suzuki Daisetsu**

Reading(s): *Sourcebook*, pp.202-210

*Sourcebook*, pp.214-220

**Week 8—Feb. 24 and 26—Review and Mid-Term Exam**

**Pure Land (Week 9)**

**Week 9—Mar. 3 and 5—Hōnen and Shinran**

Reading(s): *Sourcebook*, pp.242-261
Shinto (Week 10)
Week 10—Mar. 10 and 12—Native Studies, Kamo no Mabuchi, Motoori Norinaga, and Ueda Kenji
  Reading(s): Sourcebook, pp.457-492
  Sourcebook, pp.543-552

The Kyoto School (Week 11 – Week 12)
Week 11—Mar. 17 and 19—Nishida Kitarō
  **Reflective Essay 2 Due**
  Reading(s): Sourcebook, pp.646-669

Week 12—Mar. 24 and 26—Nishitani Keiji
  Reading(s): Sourcebook, pp.713-732

Week 13—Mar. 31 and Apr. 2—Make-up Week

Week 14—Apr. 14 and 16—Student Presentations

Week 15—Apr. 21 and 23—Student Presentations

Week 16—Apr. 28—Review and Discussion
  **Major Term-Paper due**

IMPORTANT DATES:
- First Day of Classes: January 7
- Reflective Essay 1 Due: February 3
- Mid-Term Examination: February 26
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: March 3
- Reflective Essay 2 Due: March 17
- Spring Break: April 4 – 10
- Major Term-Paper Approval Deadline: March 31
- Major Term-Paper Due: April 28