

<b>PHIL 108: Introduction to Asian Philosophy</b>	<b>Spring 2004</b>
Instructor: Dr. Richard P. Hayes	Classroom: Dane Smith 234
Office hours: Mon 2:00–4:00PM	Or by appointment
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## 1 Subject matter of the course

For as long as human beings have recorded their thoughts, they have shown an interest in what it means to be a human being of good character, a useful citizen within society and a fulfilled and contented person. In this course we shall examine how several thinkers from India and China have approached this problem. Some have provided anecdotes from which the reader is expected to extract an important lesson, while others have written more systematic essays or set out programs for the cultivation of virtue and guidelines of appropriate conduct. The class will combine background lectures and class discussion of assigned readings.

## 2 Textbook

Koller, John M. and Koller, Patricia. *A Sourcebook in Asian Philosophy*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1991. (All page numbers cited in the reading assignments indicated below are with reference to this book.)

## 3 Schedule

### 3.1 Classical India

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 21	Introductory comments	
23	Does philosophy exist in Asia? Looking at both sides of the question	
26	Ṛg Veda	pp. 5–11
28	Brhadāranyaka Upaniṣad	pp. 12–24
30	Chāndogya and Taittirīya Upaniṣads	pp. 25–32
Feb 2	Bhagavad Gītā	pp. 33–50
4	Sāṃkhya and Yoga	pp. 51–68
6	Vedānta	pp. 92–128
9	Jainism	pp. 129–135
11	<i>Syād-vāda</i>	pp. 135–142
13	<b>Quiz</b>	

### 3.2 Buddhism in India and East Asia

Feb 16	Basic Buddhist teachings	pp. 193–219
18	No-self and rebirth	pp. 220–231
20	Other philosophical issues	pp. 231–246
23	Mahāyāna and the Perfection of Wisdom	pp. 247–261
25	Nāgārjuna	pp. 262–271
27	Candrakīrti	pp. 272–297
Mar 1	Asanga	pp. 308–322
3	Vasubandhu	pp. 323–344
5	Chinese Buddhism. Fa-tsang	pp. 501–507
8	Hui-nêng	pp. 508–516
10	I-hsüan	pp. 517–520
12	Dōgen	pp. 345–361

**N.B. The first essay assignment will be due the first Monday after Spring break.**

### 3.3 Classical and medieval Chinese Thought

Mar 22	Confucius	pp. 407–421
24	<i>The Greater Learning and Doctrine of the Mean</i>	pp. 422–443
26	<i>Tao Tê Ching</i>	pp. 444–450
29	Chuang-tzŭ	pp. 450–460
31	Mo-tzŭ	pp. 461–468
Apr 2	Han Fei Tzŭ	pp. 468–475
5	Mencius	pp. 476–487
7	Hsün-tzŭ	pp. 487–500
9	Neo-Confucianism	pp. 521–535
Apr 12	Chu Hsi	pp. 536–548
14	Wang Yang-ming	pp. 548–554
16	<b>Quiz</b>	

### 3.4 Modern Asia

Apr 19	Modernity, East and West	
21	Swami Vivekananda	
23	Gandhi versus Ambedkar on the question of caste	pp. 156–165
26	Mao Tse-tung and Fung Yu-lan	pp. 555–568
28	Nishitani	pp. 393–402
30	Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama	pp. 379–393

No classes will be held during Review Week (May 3–7), but I will be in my office during class hours and during my normal office hours prepared to meet anyone who wishes to discuss the final essay. The final essay is due on May 7.

## 4 Summary of evaluation

Assignment	Date due	Percentage of final mark
1st quiz	Feb 13	20%
1st essay	Mar 22	25%
2nd quiz	Apr 16	25%
2nd essay	May 7	30%

## 5 Suggested essay topics

**First essay, due March 22** Write a brief (4–5 page) reflection of what you think philosophy is. Having defined philosophy, offer an assessment of whether the teachings of the Upaniṣadic authors and the Buddha and his followers qualify as philosophy.

**Second essay, due May 7** In this course we will be getting just a brief taste of many thinkers. The purpose of the second essay assignment is to give you a chance to explore one of these thinkers in more detail by writing a short (6–8 page) account of the author's place in history. Normally this would entail reading more of the author's writings than we cover in class, along with a short biographical sketch. In your written presentation, you may present a combination of biographical information and summaries of key ideas of the author you choose to discuss. You may choose any of one of the authors we have read and discussed in class.

## 6 Supplementary Readings

The following books will be put on reserve in the library.

Chan, Wing-tsit. comp. and tr. *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1963.

Feng, Youlan. *A History of Chinese Philosophy by Fung Yu-lan*. Translated by Derk Bodde, with introd., notes, bibliography and index. Princeton : Princeton University Press, 1952–1953.

Halbfass, Wilhelm. *Tradition and Reflection : Explorations in Indian Thought*. Delhi : Sri Satguru Publications, 1992.

Mohanty, Jitendranath. *Essays on Indian Philosophy Traditional and Modern* Edited by Purushottama Bilimoria. Delhi ; New York : Oxford University Press, 1993.

Mohanty, Jitendranath. *Reason and Tradition in Indian Thought: An Essay on the Nature of Indian Philosophical Thinking* Oxford : Clarendon Press ; New York : Oxford University Press, ©1992.

## 7 Dates of key authors and texts

South Asian	East Asian	Western
<p><i>Rg-veda</i> (1300-1000 BC) <i>Upaniṣads</i> (800–500 BC)</p> <p><i>Bhagavad-gītā</i> (500–250 BC) Mahāvīra (6th cent BC) Gotama Buddha (ca 560–ca 480 BC)</p>	<p>Confucius (551–479 BC)</p> <p>Mo-tzū (5th cent BC)</p> <p>Chuang-tzū (4th cent BC), Mencius (371–289 BC)</p> <p>Hsün-tzū (298–238 BC), Han Fei (280–233 BC)</p>	<p><i>Torah</i> (9th cent BC), Hebrew prophets (8th cent BC)</p> <p>Pythagoras (570–497 BC)</p> <p>Socrates (469–399 BC), Plato (427–347 BC) Aristotle (384–322 BC)</p>
		Jesus Christ
<p>Nāgārjuna (2nd cent) Patañjali (3rd cent) Asanga, Íśvarakṛṣṇa (4th cent) Vasubandhu (5th cent)</p> <p>Candrakīrti (7th century)</p>	<p>Fa-tsang (643–712), Hui-nêng (638–713) Lin-chi I-hsüan (d. 866)</p>	<p>Origen (185–254)</p> <p>Augustine (354–430)</p> <p>Boethius (480–525), Benedict (480–550) Muhammad (d. 632)</p>
<p>Vivekananda (1863–1902), Gandhi (1869–1948) Ambedkar (1891–1956)</p> <p>Tenzin Gyatso (1935– )</p>	<p>Chu Hsi (1130–1200)</p> <p>Dōgen (1200–1253) Wang Yang-ming (1472–1529)</p> <p>Mao (1893–1976), Feng Yu-lan (b. 1895), Nishitani (1900–1990)</p>	<p>ibn al-'Arabi (1164–1240), Maimonides (1186–1237) Aquinas (1224–1274) Ignatius Loyola (1491–1556) Descartes (1596–1650) Kant (1724–1804), Hegel (1770–1804), Marx (1818–1883)</p> <p>Heidegger (1889–1976)</p>