

Carleton University, Winter 2016

Phil 2700: Asian Philosophy

Instructor: Pragati Sahni

Office: River Building, Room 1401R-E

Email: TBA

Meeting time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:05-11:25 a.m, Southam Hall, Room 502

Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Description of the course

This course will be primarily devoted to introducing and understanding classical Indian Philosophy, an important and influential part of Asian philosophy. Ancient India saw the coexistence of many diverse schools of philosophical thought and this course will endeavor to give an insight into some of these. Our study will cover select though significant themes and ideas to bring out the richness and manifoldness of Indian philosophy being particularly aware of the nature of ‘philosophizing’ involved therein. Attention will be predominantly directed to arguments on the nature of reality, the means of knowing and the significance of morality. Selections from a few classical texts in translation will be looked at to gauge finer nuances. Methodologies and justifications will be assessed and analyzed. Covering the entire history of Indian philosophy is impossible on this platform but discussions will aim to identify at least some unique features that stand out in terms of both content and approach. The course will also briefly offer an overview of other Asian philosophical traditions.

General Reading

S. N. Dasgupta, *A History of Indian Philosophy*, Vol 1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1932.

S. C. Chatterjee and D. M. Datta, *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*. New Delhi: Rupa Publication, 2015.

M. Hiriyanna, *Outlines of Indian Philosophy*, India: Blackie & Son Pub. Pvt. Ltd., 1983.

P. T. Raju, *Philosophical Traditions of India*, London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd, 1971

S. Radhakrishnan, *Indian Philosophy*, Vol 1 and 2, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas, 1994.

B. K. Matilal, *Perception*, United States: Oxford University Press, 1986.

(Please note that books in the library may be earlier or later editions, so the year of publication and publisher may vary)

Assessment Criteria

Evaluation will be based on attendance (10%), two in-class tests (30% each) and a final examination (30%). The tests will take place in the **sixth** week and the **eleventh** week and the examination at the end of the semester. Questions in the tests and examination will be based primarily on the discussions in class. More details will be announced as we go along.

You will be graded on your understanding of the basic framework and central arguments of each school of thought and how these arguments reinforce their beliefs. You will also be expected to contribute some amount of analysis and criticism.

More information on calculation of attendance and absenteeism will be given at the start of the course.

Tentative Schedule

(This schedule is tentative. Changes may take place due to guest lectures or other reasons.)

Week 1

Introduction and history

Week 2

Overview of philosophical schools of thought in ancient India

The Cārvākas

Week 3

Jainism

Weeks 4 and 5

Buddhism

Selections from the *Nikāyas*

Week 6

Spill over, discussion

Test

Weeks 7 and 8

Nyāya

Selections from *Nyāya Sūtra* and *Tarka Saṃgraha*

Week 9

Vaiśeṣika

Sāṃkhya

Week 10

Yoga

Week 11

Spill over, discussion

Test

Weeks 12, 13

Advaita Vedānta

Selections from the *Chāndogya Upaniṣad* (with Śamkara's commentary)

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure

accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735