

# PHIL3010A: Philosophical Traditions

Classes: Wednesdays and Fridays 10:05-11:25

Room: ME 4494

Instructor: Nalini E. Ramlakhan (naliniramlakhan@cmail.carleton.ca)

Office hours: Friday 12:00-2:00, Dunton Tower 2205

**Course description:** This course examines Buddhist philosophical traditions. We will look at early conceptions of Buddhism and how it relates to the study of philosophy. We will explore what is distinctive about studying Buddhism as a form of philosophy, using philosophical analysis and argumentation in reflective ways. We will critically examine Buddhist doctrines that are not familiar to Western philosophers, and compare non-Western philosophical traditions to Western traditions. Students will actively engage in critical and analytical thinking when examining these traditions.

**Course aim:** The aim of this course is to teach students about some of the basic writings in non-Western philosophy. At the end of this course, students will have a firm grasp of the fundamentals of Buddhist philosophy, and will be able to make comparisons between non-Western and Western philosophical traditions.

**Grading:** You will be graded on a midterm exam, one presentation, one response paper (2 pages, double-spaced), a take home exam, and attendance. Grading: (1) Midterm: 20%, (2) Presentation: 20%, (3) Response paper: 10% (4) Take home exam: 40% (5) Attendance: 10%.

**Dos and Don'ts:** Do complete the readings, come to class, and complete your assignments on time. If you are having difficulties, including difficulties completing an assignment on time, talk to me during my office hours. Do not use your cell phone, iPhone, or Android during class. Do not be disruptive during class.

**Submission policy:** Submit your response paper in class ON or BEFORE the due date. Submit your take home exam on CULearn ON or BEFORE the due date. Late penalties are 5 points per calendar day late (i.e. 5% of your assignment grade) *unless* you have reached a prior agreement with me. Points may also be subtracted for grammar and spelling errors.

**Disclaimer:** I reserve the right to change the readings or topics assigned. Changes will not add substantial workload.

## Winter 2014

Textbooks: Siderits, Mark. *Buddhism as Philosophy: An Introduction*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2007. Plato. *Meno and Phaedo*. Hackett Publishing. Available at Haven Books.

Jan 8 Introduction. Course syllabus explained, questions, etc.

Jan 10 Chapter 1: Buddhism as Philosophy

Jan 15 Chapter 2: Early Buddhism: Basic Teachings

Jan 17 Chapter 2: Early Buddhism: Basic Teachings

Jan 22	Sartre's philosophy: Readings on CULearn
Jan 24	Presentations
Jan 29	Chapter 3: Non-Self: Empty Persons
Jan 31	Chapter 3: Non-Self: Empty Persons
Feb 5	Hume, Selection from Book I, Part 4, Section 6 of <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> <a href="http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/pi.htm">http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/pi.htm</a>
Feb 7	Presentations
Feb 12	Review for midterm
Feb 14	In-class midterm
Feb 26	Parfit, Selections from <i>Reasons and Persons</i> . Accessed via Carleton's e-library
Feb 28	Siderits, "Beyond Copatiblist: A Buddhist Approach to Freedom and Determinism" (1987). Available on GoogleScholar or through Carleton's ejournals
March 5	Siderits, "Buddhist Paleocompatibilism" (2013). Available on GoogleScholar or through Carleton's ejournals
March 7	Final essay topics handed out/discussion of essay topics and requirements
March 10	Presentations
March 12	Presentations
March 14	Chapter 4: Buddhist Ethics
March 19	Chapter 4: Buddhist Ethics; Guidelines for response paper discussed
March 21	Plato: <i>Meno</i>
March 26	Plato: <i>Phaedo</i>
March 28	Plato: <i>Phaedo</i>
April 2	Presentations; Response papers due
April 4	Presentations; Final discussion

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2013-14)

### 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 in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- 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://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

### 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 me 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 me 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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me 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 me 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. 5	Classes start (after Orientation events).
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. 14	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 28 –	
Nov. 1	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	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. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 11-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 17-21	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
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. 11-26	Final Examinations. Exams will not be held Apr. 18-20.
Apr. 18	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 26	Take-home exams are due.

### Addresses:

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