

PHIL 2700 R Introduction to Asian Philosophy

Course Calendar Description

An examination of South Asian and East Asian philosophical texts, from the period of the Upanishads and early Buddhism in India to modern philosophical movements. Historical sources may include Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Confucian or Taoist texts, with a focus on metaphysical, epistemological or ethical themes.

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing.

Lectures three hours a week. May be offered as an online course in selected terms.

Instructor: Melanie Coughlin;

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-1 p.m. in the Online Meeting Room at the top of the course webpage; instructor can also be booked for online appointments via melaniecoughlin.youcanbook.me throughout the week or via email one week in advance;

Email: melanie.coughlin@carleton.ca;

Course Modality: Entirely web-based and so requires reliable internet connection.

Course Description for Winter 2020

Academic philosophy in North America has only recently begun to knowingly integrate the study of philosophy east of Greece. The recency of this self-conscious integration means exciting new opportunities for entry-level thinking in the burgeoning field of Asian philosophy. Accordingly, there is no knowledge of either philosophy or Asia required to begin this course, but course participants will have many chances to acquire and apply such knowledge.

We survey the diversity and development of South Asian and East Asian philosophy through internal and external processes of argument, interpretation and critique. Out of respect for the vast scope of this material, each course participant is given the choice to focus on topics in either South Asian philosophy or East Asian philosophy for the discussions and term paper.

Primary philosophical themes in this course are conceptions of self, ethical theories and the relationship between these two types of inquiry. We explore these themes by engaging recent scholarship that uses analytic terms to connect historical concepts in Asian philosophy to current global debates in metaphysics and ethics. Through this engagement, course participants develop their own readings and critical applications of primary-source material from Vedānta, Theravāda Buddhism, Mahāyāna Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism (Taoism) and Chan (Zen) Buddhism.

Learning Objectives

1. Define terms historically germane to Asian philosophy;
2. Distinguish between different schools of thought within Asian philosophy;
3. Present textual evidence to support one's point of view and engage with others';
4. Discuss the application of contemporary analytic terms to Asian primary sources;
5. Formulate one's own interpretive and evaluative argument in Asian philosophy.

Assessment

Quizzes

$$1\% \times 18 = 18\%$$

The quizzes provide immediate, specific and automated feedback on how well you are grasping the course content. There are two quizzes per course module and each one is based on the content of the module that directly precedes it. The time taken to complete each quiz is not monitored, but each quiz must be completed by the end of the scheduled period for its module.

Discussions

$$20\% \times 2 = 40\%$$

There are two discussions where you have the chance to choose a topic of interest and participate over several modules. Each discussion requires you to post once and to reply once. Your posts and replies are graded according to how well you apply the relevant assigned reading, both when answering the discussion questions and when responding to fellow course participants' posts. There are general discussion forum guidelines and a detailed discussion rubric to guide your contributions in the Assignment Descriptions module.

Term Paper

$$2\% + 40\% = 42\%$$

There is one term paper to be submitted on the last day of the term and course participants have the chance to choose from several topics assigned by the instructor. Every successful term paper for this course will demonstrate the skills of argumentation, interpretation and critique, as explained and trained in the workshops and assignment rubric. **A portion of 2% of the term paper grade is earned through completion of the Writing Centre's online workshop "Writing for Academic Purposes," which is part of Carleton University's Incentive Program.** The rest of the term paper grade is based on the individual final submission. The instructor is happy to discuss ideas or drafts during office hours or by appointment, but cannot review drafts over email. For asynchronous feedback, students are encouraged to participate in Workshops 3 and 4's rubric-supported peer exchanges of the interpretive and evaluative sub-arguments required for the term paper.

Schedule of Modules, Topics and Deadlines

Modules	Topics	Activities	Due Dates
Getting Started	Path to Success in PHIL 2700	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Optional) Self-Introduction and Finding a Study Buddy: Post and Reply	(Suggested) January 12, 11:59 p.m.
1	Introduction to Asian Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz 1• Quiz 2	January 19, 11:59 p.m.
2	Workshop 1: Discussing Orientalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz 3• Quiz 4• Join Discussion Group for Workshop 1	January 26, 11:59 p.m.

3	Self and Liberation in South Asian Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 5 • Quiz 6 • Initial Discussion Post for Workshop 1 	February 2, 11:59 p.m.
4	Nonself and Compassion in South Asian Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 7 • Quiz 8 • Discussion Reply for Workshop 1 	February 9, 11:59 p.m.
5	Workshop 2: Discussing the Self's Relation to Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 9 • Quiz 10 • Join Discussion Group for Workshop 2 	February 16, 11:59 p.m.
6	Spontaneity and the Way in East Asian Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 11 • Quiz 12 • Initial Discussion Post for Workshop 2 	March 1, 11:59 p.m.
7	Non-Duality and Experience in East Asian Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 13 • Quiz 14 • Discussion Reply for Workshop 2 	March 8, 11:59 p.m.
8	Workshop 3: Interpretive Arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 15 • Quiz 16 • (Optional) Exchange Drafts of Interpretive Sub-Arguments in Forum for Workshop 3 	March 15, 11:59 p.m.
9	Workshop 4: Evaluative Arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 17 • Quiz 18 • (Optional) Exchange Drafts of Evaluative Sub-Arguments in Forum for Workshop 4 	March 22, 11:59 p.m.
9	Asian Philosophy in the World Today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Optional) Detailed Online Course Experience Survey 	(Suggested) March 29, 11:59 p.m.
Term Paper	Term Paper Submission Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Term Paper 	April 5, 11:59 p.m.

Readings

There is no textbook purchase required for this course, however **students are advised to download all materials required from the online resources to ensure access when needed, especially since the selection of online books (Goodman 2009 and Ivanhoe 2017) are sometimes unavailable when in use by several others.** Students can also choose to purchase their own paper or digital copies of either of these works according to their chosen focus on, respectively, South Asia or East Asia. All readings are available through either the Ares Library Reserves in PDF format or through the MacOdrum Library's selection of online books. The lecture notes and videos within the course modules are also required materials for this course.

Required Reading for All Course Participants*

Bodhi, Bhikku. 2000. "The Characteristic of Nonself" and "Setting the Wheel of Dhamma in Motion" *Connected Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Samyutta Nikaya*. Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 901-903, 1843-1847.

Olivelle, Patrick. 1998. "Katha Upanishad," *Early Upanishads*. New York: Oxford University Press, 379-403.

Sasaki, Ruth Fuller. 2009. "Discourse X" and "Discourse XXII," *The Record of Linji*; edited by Thomas Yūhō Kirchner. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 7-10, 30-33.

Watson, Burton. 2013. "Section 2: Discussion on Making All Things Equal" *The Complete Works of Zhuangzi*. New York: Columbia University Press, 7-18.

*All of these readings are available for download as machine-readable PDFs through the online Ares Library Reserves system via the course webpage.

Required Reading for Course Participants Focused on South Asian Philosophy*

Goodman, Charles. 2009. "Introduction," "Chapter 2: Some Western Ethical Theories" and "Chapter 5: Śāntideva and After." *Consequences of Compassion: An Interpretation and Defense of Buddhist Ethics*. New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 3-8, 23-46, 89-107.

*Excerpts are available as machine-readable PDFs in relevant modules and the whole work is available for reference as an online resource via MacOdrum Library Catalogue.

Required Reading for Course Participants Focused on East Asian Philosophy*

Ivanhoe, Philip J.. 2017. "Introduction," "Chapter 2: Conceptions of Self" and "Chapter 5: Oneness and Spontaneity." *Oneness: East Asian Conceptions of Virtue, Happiness, and how we are all Connected*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-12, 35-57, 104-127.

*Excerpts are available as machine-readable PDFs in relevant modules and the whole work is available for reference as an online resource via MacOdrum Library Catalogue.

Instructor's Policies

Lateness

A note from a doctor or counsellor confirming unexpected obstacles during the relevant time period satisfies the requirement for extensions without penalty. It is also possible to accept advance requests of **at least one week** on the basis of documented conflicts, such as sporting or academic competitions. In these cases, a letter from the relevant organizer would suffice for documentation. Policies specific to forms of assessment are as follows:

- Quizzes
There are no make-ups for lateness without documentation, but each course participant is offered one chance to miss one quiz's deadline by accident.
- Discussions
There are no make-ups for lateness without documentation and the penalty for lateness is one-grade-point per day (A to A-, A- to B+ and so on).
- Term Paper
There are no make-ups for lateness without documentation, the penalty for lateness is one grade-point per day and if the late submission will extend past the end of April, a formal deferral from the Registrar's Office is required, since this interferes with the instructor's own grading deadlines.

N.B. For all assignments, lateness for reasons of individual technical errors or obstacles such as a lack of internet access must be penalized as preventable lateness, and so students are advised to secure timely internet access, as well as to double-check online submissions by closing the browser after submission and then re-opening the browser and the submitted assignment on cuLearn to make ensure that the correct item (and the correction version of the item) has been successfully uploaded. If there is any doubt or obstacle remaining, students are universally expected to send a back-up via e-mail before the submission deadline to avoid the lateness penalty.

Appeals

If a student judges any mark on an assignment to be unfair, then appeals can be made within two weeks after the distribution of the mark. Unless the mistake is a calculation error, the grade appeal must include a paragraph written by the student to explain why a better mark is justified with reference to the relevant grading rubric (provided for all assignments within the course module: Assignment Descriptions).

Questions

The instructor is committed to responding to questions posted to the Ask Your Instructor Form or submitted by e-mail within 48 hours. If you do not receive a response within that time frame, then there is the strong possibility of a technical error, so please check your post or re-send your e-mail. If you have a question that is not of a personal nature, then it is best to post your question under a descriptive title in the Ask Your Instructor discussion forum on the course webpage, so that everyone can benefit from the answer.

Discussion Forum Guidelines

DO

- When expressing an opinion, use phrases like “The way I understand it” or “From what I’ve read” to show other students that you are open to discussion;
- Include specific examples to support your opinion, especially when agreeing or disagreeing with someone else’s post;
- Both when posting and when replying, make new connections between the discussion topics and the assigned readings by referring to specific pages in the readings (e.g. Goodman 2009, 7);
- Include thoughtful questions to show that you care what your fellow course participants think.

DON'T

- Copy material from other course participants’ posts—if you’re not sure what you can add, contact the instructor or Academic Advising for support;
- Post about things that are completely unrelated to the coursework, like your personal plans for the weekend;
- Insult or make fun of posts or use sarcasm—if you disagree with a post, then explain why in a constructive and empathetic manner, i.e. Remember the Human: if you wouldn’t say it to someone’s face, then don’t say it online;
- Get involved in flame wars—especially not over issues of spelling, grammar, FAQs, and so on—if things do flame up, remember that you can stand by what you said and still apologize for the way in which you said it.

Supports for Students Studying Online

- Carleton’s Centre for Student Academic Support has online resources to help you succeed with online workshops to improve your personal and academic skills. Go to this link: <https://carleton.ca/csas/online-support/> to become a member of their online community.
- Fellow students and the instructor will be regularly checking the ‘Ask Your Instructor Forum,’ where you can receive general clarification on course content, assignment expectations, study procedures, and so on. Please describe your discussion topic as clearly as possible to facilitate other students’ use of this important resource.
- The Academic Advising Centre advises students on a drop-in basis from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. and in the case of distance students, it is possible to arrange for phone or virtual calls. These advisors can help you manage your course load and create feasible work schedules.
- The instructor holds weekly online office hours on the course webpage through Big Blue Button, where you can get personalized feedback on assignments plans/outlines and/or discuss academic challenges or goals. If you have another commitment at the weekly hour, you can book a meeting outside of the regular office hours via the instructor’s webpage at melaniecoughlin.youcanbook.me. If you can make none of the available hours left on youcanbook.me, you are welcome to contact the instructor via e-mail to work out another time one week in advance.
- Every Carleton student has access to free counselling services, including teleconferencing ones, via Aspiria’s EmpowerMe 24-hour, 365 days a year intake meeting and referral service which can be reached toll-free at 1-866-741-6389.

- Students registered with the PMC are encouraged to contact the instructor to request any specific accommodation needed to most easily access the course materials and/or best demonstrate your learning;
- Students who think that obstacles posed by a disability and/or long-term condition might be interfering with their work but who are not registered with the PMC are advised to send an e-mail to pmc@carleton.ca requesting either i) a Pre-Intake Meeting if you do not yet have documentation, or ii) an Intake Meeting if you already have documentation.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2019-20)

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 on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- 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.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

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.

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation:

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

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

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/>

Survivors of Sexual Violence: as a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Important Dates:

Sept. 4	Classes start.
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 14	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 21-25	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 22	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 6	Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. 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 a fall term course.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 17	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 7	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 10	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 13-25	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 25	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy: 3A35 Paterson Hall

www.carleton.ca/philosophy

520-2110

Registrar's Office: 300 Tory

www.carleton.ca/registrar

520-3500

Academic Advising Centre: 302 Tory

www.carleton.ca/academicadvising

520-7850

Writing Services: 4th Floor, Library

<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

520-3822

MacOdrum Library <http://www.library.carleton.ca/>

520-2735