

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.

Instructor: Melanie Coughlin (she/her);

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-2 p.m. in the Online Meeting Room at the top of the course webpage; instructor can also be booked for online appointments via **melanie-coughlin.youcanbook.me** throughout the week or via email one week in advance;

Email: melanie.coughlin@carleton.ca;

Course Modality: Asynchronous course materials with scheduled discussions and essay writing tasks.

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.

Together we survey the development and diversification 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 each of the discussions and for the term paper.

Primary philosophical themes in this course are conceptions of self, ethical theory 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 relevance of contemporary analytic terms for Asian primary sources;
5. Formulate one's own interpretive and evaluative arguments in Asian philosophy.

Assessment

Quizzes

1% x 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 and you have a second chance to improve your score, but each quiz must be completed by the end of the scheduled period for its module. There are details about deadlines and technical issues in 'Instructor's Policies' section below.

Discussions

20% x 2 = 40%

Workshops 1 & 2 each give you the chance to choose a discussion topic that interests you and develop your position on each of these topic over the course of several weeks. Each workshop's discussion board 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 and module materials 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 you in the Assignment Descriptions module.

Writing for Academic Purposes Workshop

2%

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 by the end of classes. See the Assignment Descriptions module for details and the relevant link.

Essay Proposal Sheet

10%

There are eight essay topics to choose from and each one requires interpretation, critique and the use of course materials. On the Essay Proposal Sheet, you will submit your choice of topic, choice of materials and example premises. Workshops 3 & 4 support completing the Proposal Sheet.

Essay-Format Take-Home Exam

30%

The Take-Home Exam is one essay with a 2000 word limit to be submitted on the last day of the exam period. The essay ought to use feedback from the Proposal and conform to the expectations outlined in the Assignment Descriptions module, where there is a detailed rubric for reference, and Workshops 3 & 4. The essay can use materials from the discussions, but these must be presented in an essay argument format. The instructor is happy to discuss ideas or drafts during office hours or by appointment but cannot review drafts over email.

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 	Self-Paced
1	Introduction to Asian Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 1 Quiz 2 	January 17, 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 24, 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 	January 31, 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 7, 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 28, 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 7, 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 14, 11:59 p.m.
8	Workshop 3: Interpretive Arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 15 Quiz 16 	March 21, 11:59 p.m.
9	Workshop 4: Evaluative Arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 17 Quiz 18 Essay Proposal Sheet 	March 28, 11:59 p.m.

10	Asian Philosophy in the World Today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Optional) Online Course Experience Survey 	Self-paced
Essay-Format Take-Home Exam	Essay Submission Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Essay-Format Take-Home Exam 	April 27

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 can be accessed as machine-readable PDFs through the online Ares Library Reserves. The lecture notes and videos within the modules on the course webpage are also required materials. This means that successful assignments will choose relevant information from these materials to explain whichever part(s) of the assigned readings are of most interest to you.

Required Reading for All Course Participants

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

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

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

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

Required Reading for Course Participants Focused on South Asian Philosophy

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

Required Reading for Course Participants Focused on East Asian Philosophy

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

Instructor's Policies

Lateness

Current circumstances make flexibility a key priority and the lateness policies have been re-written with this in mind, so please check the specifications distinct to each form of assessment:

- Quizzes
 - available and open from the beginning of the semester;
 - must generally be submitted by their respective due dates;
 - each participant gets one (1) 'freebee' one-week quiz extension, no questions asked, so long as the instructor is contacted within one week after the deadline;
 - more than one extension and/or an extension greater than one week require documentation from an advisor, counsellor or medical practitioner.
- Discussions
 - time-sensitive due to interaction with peers;
 - late submission is only possible by way of a make-up assignment;
 - requests for make-up assignments must be made to the instructor within one week after the deadline
 - requests made more than one week after the deadline require documentation from an advisor, counsellor or medical practitioner.
- Writing for Academic Purposes Workshop
 - must be completed by the last day of classes;
 - make-up assignment can be requested before submission of the Term Paper Assignment with documentation from an advisor, counsellor or medical practitioner.
- Essay Proposal Sheet
 - must be submitted before the end of classes to receive feedback, except when documentation is provided by advisor, counsellor or medical practitioner;
 - late submissions are not guaranteed timely feedback.
- Essay-Format Take-Home Exam
 - This essay is due on the last day of the exam period and is therefore subject to Take-Home Exam regulations outlined in the "Deferrals for Final Exams" section below.

N.B. Students are advised to double-check online submissions by closing the browser after submission and then re-opening the browser and the submitted assignment on cuLearn to ensure that the correct item (and the correction version of the item) has been successfully uploaded. If there is any doubt remaining, course participants must submit via an e-mail attachment before the submission deadline. Without an e-mail back-up, mistaken or failed uploads will be treated according to the above regulations.

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 please consider posting your question under a descriptive title in the Ask Your Instructor discussion forum on the course webpage, so that others can benefit from reading it. The instructor is regularly available for one-on-one consultations by audio or chat, see the "Supports for Students Studying Online" section below.

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

- The instructor holds weekly online office hours, as well as additional scheduled-as-needed hours, on the course webpage through Big Blue Button. Use these hours to discuss your progress and/or obstacles in the course, assignments expectations, plans or drafts and broader questions about academic philosophy. Both the drop in weekly hour and the meetings outside of the regular office hours (booked at melanie-coughlin.youcanbook.me) are one-on-one

consultations. If you can make none of these, or the schedule-as-needed hours are full, contact the instructor via e-mail and we can usually work out another time.

- 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 it is possible to arrange for meeting by phone or web. These advisors can help you manage your course load and create feasible work schedules.
- Every Carleton student has access to free counselling services, including teleconferencing ones, via EmpowerMe 24-hour, 365 days a year intake meeting and referral service which can be reached toll-free at 1-833-628-5589.
- 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 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 a Pre-Intake Meeting if you do not yet have documentation, or an Intake Meeting if you already have documentation.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2020-21)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

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 Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *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 where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *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.

Important Dates:

- Sept. 9 Classes start.
- Sept. 23 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. 12 Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Oct. 26-30 Fall Break – no classes.
- Nov. 27 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. 11 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. 12-23 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. 23 All take-home examinations are due.
- Jan. 11 Classes begin.
- Jan. 25 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. 15 Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Feb. 15-19 Winter Break – no classes.
- Mar. 31 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. 2 Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Apr. 14 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. **Classes follow a Friday schedule.**
- Apr. 15 No classes or examinations take place.
- Apr. 16-27 Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
- Apr. 27 All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
520-7850

Writing Services:
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>
520-3822

MacOdrum Library
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>
520-2735