PHIL 2700: *Asian Philosophy* (Winter 2019)

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: second-year standing. Lectures three hours a week.)

Meeting time: Tuesdays, 14:35 – 17:25, room 404 Southam Hall
Instructors: Melanie Coughlin & Gordon Davis
Office hours: (G. Davis) Fridays 11:30-12:30 (Paterson 3A51, Philosophy Dept), or by appointment, OR (M. Coughlin) 5:35-6:25 in the College of Humanities, Paterson ('3', not '3A'!), room 310A
Email(s): Melanie.Coughlin@carleton.ca ; Gordon.Davis@carleton.ca

IMPORTANT NOTE re. EMAIL: You will be expected to check your Carleton email account at least every couple of days. As well as being good general practice (for receiving university messages), this is because we will be sending out announcements to that address, sometimes drawing attention to material on CuLearn.

REQUIRED READING:

1. Charles Goodman, *Consequences of Compassion: An Interpretation and Defence of Buddhist Ethics* (Oxford: OUP, 2009), available as an ebook at the Carleton library website (**chapters 1-6**)

2. Handouts (provided in class) with excerpts from the *Rig Veda* and the *Mahabharata*; and excerpts from S. Radhakrishnan (commentary on *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Upanishads*)

3. Other short Buddhist texts …including excerpts from the *Pali Nikayas* (Pali Canon) :
http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/sn/sn56/sn56.011.than.html (on the four noble truths);
http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/mn/mn.063.than.html ("Malunkyovada Sutta");
http://www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/various/wheel186.html#theravada (on impermanence);
http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/sn/sn22/sn22.059.than.html (on anatta/no-self)

4. M. Siderits, "The Buddha" at http://plato.stanford.edu

5. Ivanhoe, *Oneness: East Asian Conceptions of Virtue, Happiness…*(avail. as ebook @ CUlibr.) :

   - P. Ivanhoe, *Oneness* (New York: OUP, 2017), **Chapter 2**, 35-58 and **Chapter 5**, 105-128.)

6. Primary sources on Mahayana: *Lankavatara Sutra* ; *Record of Linji* ; Dōgen ; Kim Iryŏp :

   - Suzuki, Daisetz Teitaro, trans. *Studies in the Lankavatara Sutra*. (London: Routledge, 1975);
   - Linji, "Record of Linji: Instructions of a Chan Master," *Norton Anthology of World Religions: Buddhism*; ed. Lopez, Donald S.. London/NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 2015, 541-545.
   - Dōgen, "Treasury of the True Dharma Eye: Book 28, Paying Obeisance and Getting the Marrow," *Norton Anthology of World Religions: Buddhism;* ed. Lopez, Donald S.. London and New York: W.W. Norton & Company Inc., 2015, 627-637.
   - Kim Iryŏp, "On New Year's Day of the 25th Year after Joining the Monastery," *Reflections of a Zen Buddhist Nun: Essays by Zen Master Kim Iryŏp*; trans. Jin Y. Park. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014, 78-86.

7. Confucian and Tao/Dao(ist) sources (handouts with excerpts from) :

   - Confucius, *The Essential Analects: selected passages with traditional commentary*; trans. Edward Slingerland. Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett Publishing, 2006.
   - Zhuangzi, *Basic Writings*; trans. Burton Watson. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

8. Certain handouts posted on CuLearn (required for tests, requirements indicated in class)

* *Depending on which essay topic you choose, other readings will also be required (as specified in material relating to the various essay topics)… See also: list of library reserve books at:*

http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/search/r

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

It would be impossible to cover *all*, or even all the major, ancient traditions of Asian philosophy, in a single course. Most of our attention will be directed to the tradition that has had the longest and widest reach throughout Asia: the Buddhist philosophical tradition. However, the Indian, Sri Lankan and Tibetan segments of this tradition require familiarity with Hindu philosophical ideas; and the Chinese, Korean and Japanese segments require familiarity with Taoist ideas. Some brief discussion of Taoism will be offered; and meanwhile a more extended examination of the Hindu tradition will occupy our attention early in the course. (One tradition that will be much more briefly mentioned in this course, and only if there is time, is the Confucian tradition.)

The primary philosophical themes of the course will be selfhood (sometimes addressed in terms of 'personal identity', a live philosophical issue in contemporary philosophy) and the various themes of ethics, including personal happiness and soteriology (e.g. 'nirvana') as well as moral debates, both general and particular. It is particularly in connection with morality and ethics that stark differences between Asian and Western philosophical approaches emerge. Another inevitable theme is the relationship between philosophy and religion – actually, a set of themes and problems, such as how we are to define the categories of religion and philosophy, how one can inform the other (if at all), how knowledge and wisdom may take different forms in each sphere, as well as particular questions such as: Is Buddhism mainly a religion or a philosophy? Is being a Buddhist philosopher necessary (or even sufficient) for being a Buddhist, or for being a proponent of Buddhist 'dharma'? Similar questions arise in other traditions such as Hinduism and Taoism, and shed light on another running theme of the course – the scope for explaining the differences of emphasis, method and content between Asian and Western philosophical traditions.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS:

(Please note that the order and/or timing of topics or readings may change – particularly due to visits by guest speakers, which will be announced asap. So long as no changes have been announced, the readings indicated below should be done *prior* to the date under which they appear; they will be discussed that day.)

Week 1 (Jan. 8) Introduction / Guiding themes / Background (Vedic religion in India; Taoism in China)

Week 2 (Jan. 15) Conceptions of divinity in ancient Hinduism / Concepts of 'Atman' & 'Moksha'

Readings: Excerpts from *Rig Veda* and *Bhagavad Gita* (handouts provided)

Week 3 (Jan. 22) Early Buddhism in the context of Ancient Hinduism

Readings: M. Siderits; Buddha's first sermons (rdgs under # 4 & 5 on p. 1 above); **Goodman, ch. 1**

Week 4 (Jan. 29) **TEST 1** + Lecture & discussion: Intro. to 'metaphysics and ethics' in Early Buddhism

Rdgs: **Charles Goodman, *Consequences of Compassion***, chs. 1-3; *Dhammapada;* Siderits

Week 5 (Feb. 5) Comparing Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism (ethics and 'metaphysics')

Rdg: **Charles Goodman, *Consequences of Compassion***, chapters 4 & 5

Week 6 (Feb. 12) Ideas and Ideals in Mahayana Buddhism: emptiness and the bodhisattva ideal

Rdg: **Charles Goodman, *Conseq. of Compassion***, chapters 5 & 6

READING WEEK BREAK: *** no class on Feb. 19

Week 7 (Feb. 26) **TEST 2** + Essay writing workshop (& Mahayana Buddhism continued)

Rdg: **Charles Goodman, *Conseq. of Compassion*** (review & sections relevant to ess. topics)

Week 8 (Mar. 5) New Theories of Self in East Asian Philosophy

Rdg: **P. Ivanhoe (*Oneness*),** chap. 2 – see reading # 7 – and excerpts from the *Laṅkāvatāra Sūtra*

Week 9 (Mar. 12) Untutored versus Cultivated Spontaneity (other Chinese philosophical traditions)

Rdg: **P. Ivanhoe (*Oneness*)**, chap. 5 and excerpts from the Analects and the Zhuangzi

Week 10 (Mar. 19) Buddha Nature as One's Own Mind (Chinese & E. Asian Buddhism: Chan / Zen)

Rdg: The *Record of Linji* (access TBA)

Week 11 (Mar. 26) **TEST 3** + Topic: Buddha Nature as All Things (Dōgen in Japanese Buddhism)

Rdg: Dogen, *Getting the Marrow* (access TBA)

Week 12 (Apr. 2) Buddha Nature as Original Creativity

Rdg: Kim Iryŏp's *New Year's Day* (access TBA)

Week 13 (Apr. 9) **Final Essay due (11 pm via email)** Class review / last qns re essays / applications

EVALUATION (w/ weight of assignments as percentage of total mark):

- Much of the evaluation will be based on in-class tests. But we realize that some people have a strong preference for essays over tests. Some classes will be devoted to discussing essay topics, and essay writing, etc. To enable students to compensate for test results, the essay will be worth a lot: 50 % (including two preliminary submissions with outlines, worth 5 % each). Another mitigating feature for those who dislike multiple-choice tests is this: we will take your best two results, from three in-

class tests. Instead of each test representing a third of that part of the mark, each of your two better test results will amount to 20 % of the total course mark; so 2 x 20 % = 40 % will be based on tests.

Participation and attendance	10 % (Details TBA in class)
Test # 1 (**Jan. 29**)	20 % (on ideas and texts in the Hindu tradition)
Test # 2 (**Feb. 26**)	20 % (on Indian and East Asian Buddhism) AND / OR
Test # 3 (**Mar. 26**)	Poss. 20 %, to replace # 1 or 2 ; (# 3 on other philo. traditions)
Final essay (**due April 9**)	50 % (of which 10 % = 2 x 5 % based on draft work)

The main components of essay evaluation include the following: clarity of thesis statement (and other 'signposting'), logical and effective use of interpretation and argument, due consideration of objections (with effective replies), balanced essay structure, effective use of relevant readings (with full and consistent citations), sensitive interpretation of primary texts, effective writing style (including basics such as grammar and spelling, as well as clarity in wording and phrasing), and originality in thesis and/or arguments.

More will be said in class about these expectations and their role in how essays are evaluated. A point to be emphasized here, though, concerns 'originality'. There are two different senses in which essays should be 'original'. In one sense, 'originality' involves coming up with ideas and arguments that are novel (or outside the norm for this level); this can be quite difficult, and those earning the highest marks generally do well on this score, while good essays may show only a modest degree of originality in this sense. In another sense, an essay is 'original' when it is a student's own work – i.e. own composition – and when any ideas in it that derive from the work of others are duly credited in citations of these sources. In this sense, 'originality' is not a component of the mark, but is simply an absolute minimum requirement. If any part of an essay – apart from explicit quotations – is not original *in this sense*, the student has committed the serious offence of *plagiarism*.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON PLAGIARISM:
According to the Undergraduate Calendar's definition (in section 14 of "University Regulations"), it constitutes *plagiarism* "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product work of another without expressly giving credit to another." It is the responsibility of each student to understand this definition, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding/abetting plagiarism by other students. Penalties for plagiarism are decided by the Dean's office, and can range from an automatic zero on the assignment to suspension or expulsion from the university.

OTHER POLICIES:

*** Not permitted during classtime: cellphones, smartphones, tablets, AND <u>not even laptops</u> (except with special permission).
<u>Presentation of essays</u>: Since these will be submitted as email attachments, the word count (TBA) will matter more than the formatting (but we reserve the right to change things like font, before returning essays).
Re. <u>methods of citation</u>: We accept MLA, APA or Chicago style, provided you stick to one of these; however, we may add other requirements, which you must observe regardless of which style you use (TBA).
<u>Collaboration with other students</u>: An essay may not be submitted as the joint work of two or more students (or as a 'group project' of any kind). If you share ideas with others in the class, and/or proofread for one another, bear in mind that the same rules apply (as above) regarding plagiarism.
<u>Accommodations</u>: Apart from those regulated by the guidelines below, the ability to make up for a missed test by writing it at a later date will depend on presentation of evidence of emergency or medical condition, i.e. you must submit official documentation, signed by a professional whose contact information is provided.
<u>Submission of essays</u>: To count as arriving on time, your essay must be submitted (to both emails above) by 11:59 PM on the due date. (*If you do not have regular internet access or you have other limitations w.r.t. computing access, such that you prefer to submit hard copies, please see one of us asap.*)

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2018-19)

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 special arrangements 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:

Jan. 7	Classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 18	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 26	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. 9	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. 12-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 19-21	Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place.
Apr. 27	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