

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: PHIL 11

Title: INTRO TO ASIAN PHIL

Full Title: Introduction to Asian Philosophy

Last Reviewed: 12/12/2022

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	17.5	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**  
An introductory philosophical analysis of major ideas in Indian, Chinese, and Japanese philosophy. The course examines and compares these views with basic tenets of Western philosophy, exploring perspectives on the nature of existence, human destiny, ethics, and socio-political obligation.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**  
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: An introductory philosophical analysis of major ideas in Indian, Chinese, and Japanese philosophy. The course examines and compares these views with basic tenets of Western philosophy, exploring perspectives on the nature of existence, human destiny, ethics, and socio-political obligation. (Grade or P/NP)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent  
 Limits on Enrollment:  
 Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.  
 Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>			
	E	Humanities	Effective:	Inactive:
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy	Fall 2003	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			
	C2	Humanities	Effective:	Inactive:
			Fall 2003	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			
	3B	Humanities	Effective:	Inactive:
			Fall 2003	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2003	Inactive:
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2003	Inactive:

### **CID:**

### **Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate examples of the historical diversity among the major philosophical schools of India, China, and Japan, specifying their individual integrity in ancient thought.
2. Analyze commonalities among different philosophies of Asia in their later development.
3. Distinguish influences of Asian thought on Western ideas and vice versa.
4. Evaluate the influence of a Western philosophical framework on the appraisal of Asian philosophies, particularly as these are constrained by English translation of Asian philosophical material.
5. Identify several examples of the influences of Buddhist and Chinese philosophy on Japanese philosophy and religion.
6. Identify several examples of the mutual influence of post-Upanishadic Indian philosophy and Buddhist philosophy.

### **Topics and Scope:**

Required topics:

- I. Fundamental perennial issues in Western philosophy and Eastern philosophy
- II. Key problems, limitations of translation, and challenges of ethnocentrism attending a Western study of Asian worldviews

III. Comparison of interpretations that arise in translations of classic texts

IV. Tenets and textual analysis of the philosophy of ancient India

- A. Vedas
- B. Upanishads
- C. Bhagavad Gita
- D. Samkhya-Yoga
- E. Advaita Vedanta

V. Tenets and textual analysis of Buddhist philosophy

- A. Issues of early Buddhism as revealed in the sutta pitaka
- B. Issues in Madhyamika vs. Yogacara Buddhism
- C. Buddhist psychology of mind

VI. Reciprocal influence of Upanishadic philosophy on Buddhism and vice versa

VII. Tenets and textual analysis of the philosophies of ancient China highlighting the interplay of Taoist and Confucian philosophies throughout Chinese philosophical history

- A. Tao Te Ching
- B. Chuangzi
- C. I Ching
- D. Five-Elements School
- E. Confucian Analects
- F. Mencius
- G. Mozi

VIII. Tenets of Japanese philosophy

- A. Nationalism
- B. Primacy of aesthetics
- C. Mind-body mastery
- D. Influence of Buddhism
- E. Uniqueness of Zen philosophy

Other topics may include:

IX. Developments in Neo-Confucian philosophy

X. The philosophy of Mao Tse-tung

XI. Confucian and Western influences in the modern Chinese democracy movement

XII. Influence of Buddhism in the West, particularly America

- A. Encounter with Zen and Tibetan Buddhism
- B. Philosophy of Nishitani
- C. Global influence of the Dalai Lama
- D. Christian-Buddhist dialogue
- E. Worldwide movement of socially engaged Buddhist activism

XIII. Tenets and influence on Western thought of modern Indian thought

- A. Gandhi
- B. Radhakrishnan
- C. Yogananda
- D. Krishnamurti

## Assignment:

1. Readings from course text and supplementary materials (10-30 pages per week)
2. Three to fifteen quizzes (multiple choice and/or short essay) on assigned readings, lectures, and/or video material
3. One to three section/midterm examinations including essay, short answer, and multiple choice questions
4. Final examination including essay, short answer, and multiple choice sections

Other assignments may include:

5. Short essays examining and articulating the interplay between various aspects of Asian vs. Western philosophy
6. Research project and written essay on a comparative theme, focusing on specific aspects of both Asian and Western philosophies
7. Field trip to Asian Art Museum/Summative Report
8. Visitation to an institution where Asian discipline is practiced

## Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Essays required on mid-term exams and on final exam; and for Other Assignments

Writing  
0 - 20%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, True/false, Completion, Essay Exams, Quizzes, Final

Exams  
60 - 80%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and class participation

Other Category  
10 - 20%

## **Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

All are classic texts:

Analects of Confucius

Asian Philosophies, 4th Edition. Koller, John M. Prentice Hall: 2002

Awakening: An Introduction to the History of Eastern Thought, 2nd Edition. Bresnan, Patrick S. Prentice Hall: 2002

Bhagavad-Gita

Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction. Keown, Damien. Oxford University Press: 1996

Tao Te Ching

Hinduism: A Very Short Introduction. Knott, Kim. Oxford University Press: 2000

Indian Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction. Hamilton, Sue. Oxford University Press: 2001

A Sourcebook in Asian Philosophy. Koller, John M. and Koller, Patricia. Prentice Hall: 1991