

syllabus

Core Curriculum 3202: Classical Philosophies of India and China

Tuesday & Thursday 11AM-12:15PM

3407 Boylan Hall

OVERVIEW:

Exploring what it means to be human is fundamental to most Eastern philosophies but humanity is understood by way of man's relationship to one's society, the universe, and divinity. This course will focus on the analysis of several major schools of thought that dominated early Eastern societies by examining the world view these traditions presented and what way of life they prescribed to their followers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop skills of conceptual analysis and argumentation, including critical thinking skills of examining, comparing, and assessing cultures;
2. Develop a basis for evaluating classical philosophical texts of Indian and Chinese cultures;
3. Develop a basic understanding of ethical theories of Indian and Chinese cultures, and of the values that have shaped these theories;
4. Demonstrate an ability to express ideas clearly both in written form and orally.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

5% - PARTICIPATION
15% - JOURNAL (ON BLACKBOARD)
20% - TERM PAPER (3 PHASES)
25% - GROUP PROJECT
35% - FINAL EXAM

Extra credit: up to 5% can be earned by leading or participating in online discussions on the Blackboard course website.

REQUIRED TEXT: The required reading materials are compiled into a **course packet** available for purchase at Far Better Copy (Campus Rd. & Hilel Pl.) available after 2/4/13.

COURSE POLICIES:

ABSENCES: Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed **up to three** unexcused absences. Any other unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade.

LATENESS: Anyone arriving after 11:20AM will receive ½ of an absence.

OFFICE HOURS: All meetings except in rare circumstances **must be by appointment** in 3316B.

EMAILING PROCEDURES: you are always welcome to email me with any course-related questions. However, you **MUST** adhere to the following rules:

1. The SUBJECT **must** contain the title of the course and section (CORC3202) and your FULL NAME;
2. Do NOT send any attachments (i.e. assignments, essays, etc.) as I will not open them unless I specifically request them from you;
3. You must state your FULL NAME in your email.

If you do not stick to these rules, chances are your message might remain unanswered.

CELL PHONES & PDAS: all cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc. **must be turned off** at the beginning of class **and put away**. Any ringing, clicking, or vibrating cell phone will result in the user's exclusion from class activities and an automatic absence. No text-messaging, picture-taking, or any other behavior unrelated to class activities will be tolerated. This policy WILL BE strictly enforced.

University's policy on Academic Integrity:

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member **MUST** report the violation.

Students with Disabilities:

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

Other Academic Regulations:

Consult pp. 35-51, pp. 52-59, and pp. 74-83 in the Brooklyn College Bulletin, for a complete listing of academic regulations of the College.

COURSE CALENDAR:

TUE 1/29	Intro
THU 1/31	Concepts <i>The Story of India</i> episode 1 (in class)
TUE 2/5	Discussion of all projects & role assignment
THU 2/7	Vedic Society & the Vedas Read P2-P16: <i>South Asian Chronology; Historical Perspectives; Hinduism: Early Beginnings; Vedas and Upanishads</i> Read P18-P40: <i>Purusha Sukta, the RigVeda</i>
TUE 2/12 - CC	No Class
THU 2/14 - TUE	Group Meetings (research & strategy)
TUE 2/19	Vedic Society & the Vedas Read P18-P40: <i>Purusha Sukta, the RigVeda; The Laws of Manu</i>
THU 2/21	Vedic Society & the Vedas Read P18-P40: <i>Purusha Sukta, the RigVeda; The Laws of Manu</i>
TUE 2/26	Vedic Society & Vedanta; Upanishads Read P41-P63: <i>The Upanishads</i>
THU 2/28	Vedic Society & Vedanta; Upanishads Read P41-P63: <i>The Upanishads</i>
TUE 3/5	Group lists due (with character names) Term Paper phase #1 due Peer Review
THU 3/7	Vedanta; Yoga; Hindu Gods; Mahabharata Read P64-P72: <i>Yoga; Theistic Developments</i>
TUE 3/12	Bhagavad Gita Read P73-P96: <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>
THU 3/14	Bhagavad Gita Read P73-P96: <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>
TUE 3/19	Hinduism wrap-up "Hindu" group meetings
THU 3/21	Buddhism Film about the life of the Buddha (in class)
TUE 3/26 - NC THU 3/28 - NC	Spring Break Spring Break

TUE 4/2 - NC	Spring Break
THU 4/4	Buddhism Read P97-P105: <i>The Basic Teachings</i>
TUE 4/9	Buddhism Read P97-P105: <i>The Basic Teachings</i>
THU 4/11	Buddhism Read P113-P132: <i>Buddhist Scriptures</i> Read P134-P145: <i>Theravada Buddhism</i> Read P107-P112: <i>Perfection of Wisdom etc...</i> Read P147-P157: <i>Mahayana Buddhism; The Bodhisattva Path</i>
TUE 4/16	Buddhism Read P134-P145: <i>Theravada Buddhism</i> Read P107-P112: <i>Perfection of Wisdom etc...</i> Read P147-P157: <i>Mahayana Buddhism; The Bodhisattva Path</i>
THU 4/18	Term Paper phase #2 due Peer Review
TUE 4/23	Buddhism in Asia
THU 4/25	Buddhism wrap-up "Buddhist" group meetings
TUE 4/30	Group Presentations (opening statements)
THU 5/2	Group Presentations (arguments)
TUE 5/7	Term Paper phase #3 due Presentation Conclusion & analysis Taoism Read P196-P200: <i>Daoism: the Daodejing</i>
THU 5/9	Taoism Read P196-P200: <i>Daoism: the Daodejing</i> Read P200-P219: <i>Lao Tzu's Way of Life Introduction and poems # 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 19, 38, 46, 71</i>
TUE 5/14	Taoism Read P200-P219: <i>Lao Tzu's Way of Life Introduction and poems # 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 19, 38, 46, 71</i>
THU 5/16	Final Exam review
THU 5/23	FINAL EXAM 10:30AM-12:30PM