

CORC 3202: CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHIES OF INDIA AND CHINA
Fall 2012

Professor Saam Trivedi
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Office Hours: Thursday 1:15-2:15 pm
Class Meets: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm in 3203 James

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class broadly and critically surveys the classical philosophies of China and India, two of the world's oldest civilizations that together account for about 40% of humanity today (and also happen to be two of the world's fastest growing economies). Using selections from original texts as well as recent secondary writing, we will discuss views associated with Confucius, Laozi, Zhuangzi, the Hindu sages who composed the Vedas and Upanishads, the Buddha, and others. These thinkers addressed issues concerning the nature of reality, the self, knowledge, ethics, society, enlightenment, and self-realization.

REQUIREMENTS: (1) One mid-term in-class exam, worth c. 25% of your overall grade
(2) One 3-5 page paper, worth c. 30%
(3) One final exam, worth c. 25%
(4) Class attendance and participation, worth c. 20%

REQUIRED TEXTS: (1) John Koller, *Asian Philosophies* (Pearson), 6th edition;
(2) John and Patricia Koller (eds.), *A Sourcebook in Asian Philosophy* (Prentice Hall);
(3) Lao-tzu, *Tao te Ching*, trans. Stephen Addis & Stanley Lombardo (Hackett);
(4) Stephen Mitchell (trans.), *The Bhagavad Gita* (Three Rivers Press);
(5) Walpole Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught*, (Grove Press).

COURSE OBJECTIVES: (1) Ability to evaluate classical philosophical texts of India and China; (2) ability to understand the classical philosophies of India and China and their shaping of modern Asia; (3) ability to assess different viewpoints and influential theories in Indian and Chinese cultures, and their relevance for us today.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

8/28: Course-Introduction and Welcome

Part I: Chinese Philosophy:

Chinese Philosophy: Overview

8/30: Koller, *Asian Philosophies*: Preface, Introduction + Chapter 14.

9/4: Also Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 18 (pp. 461-75 only).

Confucianism

9/6: Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 16.

9/11: Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 16: "The Vision of Confucius" (pp. 407-21 only).

9/13: Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 16: "The Vision of Confucius" (pp. 422-43 only).

9/18: No classes

9/20: Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 19 (pp. 476-500 only).

Daoism

9/25: No classes

9/27: *Tao te Ching*.

10/2: *Tao te Ching* (contd.).

10/4: Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 17: "The Taoist Vision" (pp. 444-50 only).

10/9: Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 17: "The Taoist Vision" (pp. 450-60 only).

10/11: **Mid-term Exam**.

Part II: Indian Philosophy

Indian Philosophy: Overview.

10/16: **Paper-Topics Given Out**. Also Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 1

10/18: Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 3 (also Carvaka handout).

Hinduism

10/23: Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 2.

10/25: Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 1: "Vedas and Upanishads" (pp. 5-11 and 25-30 only).

10/30: *The Bhagavad Gita*. Also Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 7

11/1: Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 10 (pp. 120-27 only).

11/6: Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 8: "Samkhya-Yoga".

11/8: **Papers Due**. Also Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 9: "Nyaya" (pp. 109-14 only).

Part III: Buddhism

11/13: Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 4.

11/15: Rahula, Chapters I-V.

11/20: Rahula, Chapters VI-VIII.

11/22: No classes – Thanksgiving holiday

11/27: Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 9, "Basic Teachings According to the Early Texts."

11/29: Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 5.

12/4: Rahula, "Selected Texts" (pp. 91-138).

12/6: Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 10, "Philosophical Issues in Early Buddhism."

12/11: Course Summation and Conclusion.

12/18: Final Exam, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm