



*Laozi on an Ox, Zhang Lu, Ming Dynasty*

# Introduction to Asian Philosophy

*Fall 2009 Syllabus*

Philosophy 101  
Sec 001  
CRN 12307  
MWF 1:00-1:50 PM  
Portable Building 13

Dr. Timothy J. Freeman  
The University of Hawaii at Hilo  
office: Old Gym #2  
office phone: 933-9920  
cell: 345-5231  
[freeman@hawaii.edu](mailto:freeman@hawaii.edu)

*Office Hours:*  
MW 2:00-2:50 pm  
or by appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Phil 101 Introduction to Asian Philosophy**

Philosophical teachings of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, Neo-Confucianism, and Shintoism.

## REQUIRED TEXT

*Asian Philosophies*, 5th ed. John M. Koller. Pearson Prentice Hall, 2002.

## COURSE WEB PAGE

[http://web.me.com/tjf57/Tim\\_Freemans\\_Philosophy\\_Courses/Intro\\_to\\_Asian\\_Philosophy.html](http://web.me.com/tjf57/Tim_Freemans_Philosophy_Courses/Intro_to_Asian_Philosophy.html)

## COURSE CONTENT

This course will provide a broad overview of Asian philosophies. The course will introduce the student to a wide range of important philosophical texts. In the first half of the course we will focus on the development of South Asian philosophies, beginning in ancient India with the

origins of Hinduism through reading selections from the *Rig Veda* and the *Upanishads*. We will then turn our attention to the critical reaction against Upanishadic philosophy in both Jainism and Buddhism. We will read selections from an important Jain sutra as well as selections from the Buddhist *Pali Canon*. We will then read a few key selections from the *Bhagavad Gita* and follow the further development of Hinduism in the orthodox response to the heterodox challenges. We will then conclude our survey of the development of Indian philosophy with an examination of the development of Mahayana Buddhism. We will read selections from the *Prajnaparamita* sutras, namely the short *Heart Sutra* as well as a selection from the *Diamond Sutra*. We will conclude Part One of the course with a brief consideration of the development of Tibetan Buddhism. We read a few key selections of texts important to the Tibetan tradition, such as Shantideva's *Bodhisattva Vow*, and we will watch the now legendary Martin Scorsese film *Kundun*, a film which beautifully expresses the key teachings of Mahayana Buddhism through the story of the early years of the current Dalai Lama.

Part Two of the course focuses on the development of East Asian Philosophies. We journey first to ancient China and study the development of the classical Chinese philosophies of Confucianism and Daoism. We will read selections from the *Analects of Confucius* as well as from the later Confucian classics—the *Mengzi* and the *Xunzi*. We will then turn to Daoism, reading selections from the *Daodejing* and the *Zhuangzi*. We then turn to the development of Buddhism in China and Japan. We focus first on the early development of Buddhism in China, focusing on the *Lotus Sutra*, *The Flower Garland Sutra*, and the *Land of Bliss Sutra*, important sutras for the Tiantai, Huayan, and Pure Land schools of Chinese Buddhism. We then examine the development of Chan Buddhism, reading selections from Bodhidharma, the legendary founder of Chan Buddhism, as well as from the famous *Platform Sutra* of Huineng. When the school of Chan Buddhism came to Japan it became known as Zen Buddhism. We will read selections from Dogen's famous essay "To Forget the Self" and from *Zen Comments on the Mumonkan* by Zenkei Shibayama. We will close the course with a reading of a selection from *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*, now considered a classic introduction to Zen by the 20th century Zen master Shunryu Suzuki, the founder of the San Francisco Zen Center.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through reading these key philosophical texts, learning a number of central philosophical terms, and thinking about the crucial philosophical questions, this course aims to provide a good understanding of Asian philosophies. The students will also have an understanding of how these teachings have been so influential in shaping the development of the cultures of much of South and East Asia. The course also serves as a general introduction to philosophical thinking on a number of profound philosophical questions. Who am I? What is really real? What happens after death? What is the good life? What is the relationship between the individual and society? What is the relationship between spirit and nature? The course also aims to develop the student's skills in reading, writing and critical thinking.

## GRADING POLICY

The final grade will be based on the following:

1. (20%) The Average of a number of short reading response assignments
2. (25% each) Two take-home essay assignments which will involve explaining and commenting on one of the primary texts read during each part of the course.
3. (30%) Final Exam which will include identifying key terms and a few short essay questions.
4. Frequent absences from class will negatively impact your grade.

Grading will be determined according to the following scale:

A 95-100 Excellent	C+ 77-79
A- 90-94	C 74-76 Satisfactory
B+ 87-89	C- 70-73 Poor
B 84-86 Good	D 60-70 Failure
B- 80-83	F below 60

## COURSE FORMAT

*Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion with emphasis on informal lecture.*

## CLASSROOM POLICIES

- \* All students are expected to come to class on time and to bring their books as well as paper and pen suitable for taking notes of class lectures.
- \* No laptop computers are to be used during class time.
- \* Active cellular telephones or paging devices are not permitted in class.
- \* No consumption of food is allowed during the class period.

## ADVISING STATEMENT

*Advising is a very important resource designed to help students complete the requirements of the University and their individual majors. Students should consult with their advisor at least once a semester to decide on courses, check progress towards graduation, and discuss career options and other educational opportunities provided by UH-Hilo. Advising is a shared responsibility, but students have final responsibility for meeting degree requirements.*

## SPECIAL NEEDS

*Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the University Disability Services Office - Hale Kauanoë A Wing Lounge, 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY), shirachi@hawaii.edu - as early in the semester as possible.*

## STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

*All students are expected to adhere to the Student Conduct Code as explained in the University of Hawaii at Hilo 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalogue.*

**PART I: SOUTH ASIAN PHILOSOPHY****Week 1: Origins of Indian Philosophy**M 08/24      *Course Introduction and Orientation*W 08/26      *Film: Out of India*F 08/28      *The Vedas*Read Koller (pages 1-20) and the selections from the *Rig Veda***Week 2: Vedic Philosophy: The Upanishads**M 08/31      *The Upanishads*W 09/02      *The Upanishads*F 09/04      *The Upanishads*Read Koller (pages 21-29) and the selections from the *Upanishads***Week 3: Vedic Philosophy and the Jain Vision**M 09/07      **\*\*Holiday: Labor Day\*\***W 09/09      *The Upanishads*F 09/11      *The Jain Vision*Read Koller (pages 30-44) and the selection from the *Tatvarthadhigama Sutra***\*\*September 14: last day to withdraw from courses without a "W"****Week 4: Hinduism: The Bhagavad Gita**M 09/14      *Arjuna's Dilemma*W 09/16      *Krishna's Teaching*F 09/18      *Krishna's Teaching*

Read Koller (pages 109-117) and the selections from the Pali Canon

**Week 5: Hinduism: Philosophical and Theistic Developments**M 09/21      *The Six Darshanas*W 09/23      *Vaishnavite Hinduism*F 09/25      *Shaivite Hinduism*Read Koller (pages 118-169) and the selections from the *Bhagavad Gita*

Week 6: Theravada Buddhism: Basic Teachings of the Pali CanonM 09/28      *The Buddha*W 09/30      *The Four Noble Truths*F 10/02      *Central Doctrines of Buddhism*Read Koller (pages 45-67) and the selections from *The Pali Canon*Week 7: Mahayana Buddhism: The Prajnaparamita sutrasM 10/05      *The Heart Sutra**\*First Essay Due\**W 10/07      *The Diamond Sutra*F 10/09      *Madhyamaka and Yogacara Schools*Read Koller (pages 77-108) and the selections from *Mahayana Buddhism*Week 8: Tibetan BuddhismM 10/12      Film: *Kundun*W 10/14      Film: *Kundun*F 10/16      Film: *Kundun**\*\*Last Day to Withdraw from Courses with "W"\*\**Read selections from *Essential Tibetan Buddhism*

## PART II: EAST ASIAN PHILOSOPHIES

Week 9: Confucianism: The Analects of ConfuciusM 10/19      *Historical Overview*W 10/21      *The Teachings of Confucius*F 10/23      *The Teachings of Confucius*Read Koller (pages 202-230) and the selections from the *Analects of Confucius*Week 10: Confucianism: The Mengzi and the XunziM 10/26      *Challenges to Confucianism and Mengzi's Response*W 10/28      *Xunzi's Confucianism*F 10/30      *Establishment of Confucianism*Read Koller (pages 231-242) and the selections from the *Mengzi* and the *Xunzi*Week 11: Daoism: The DaodejingM 11/02      *The Teachings of Laozi*W 11/04      *The Teachings of Laozi*F 11/06      *The Teachings of Laozi*Read Koller (pages 243-251) and the selections from the *Daodejing*

Week 12: Daoism: *The Zhuangzi*M 11/09      *The Teachings of Zhuangzi*W 11/11      **\*\*Holiday: Veterans Day\*\***F 11/13      *The Teachings of Zhuangzi*Read Koller (pages 252-263) and the selections from the *Zhuangzi*Week 13: Chinese BuddhismM 11/16      *The Introduction of Buddhism to China*W 11/18      *Tiantai & Huayan Buddhism*F 11/20      *Pure Land & Chan Buddhism*Read Koller (pages 264-277) and the selections from *Chinese Buddhism*Week 14: Neo-Confucianism: *The Grand Harmony*M 11/23      *Zhou Dunyi and the Great Ultimate*W 11/25      *Development of Neo-Confucianism*F 11/27      **\*\*Non-Instructional Day (no classes)\*\***Read Koller (pages 278-298) and the selections from *Neo-Confucianism*Week 15: Japanese PhilosophyM 11/30      *Shinto & the Introduction of Buddhism*W 12/02      *Tendai & Pure Land Schools*F 12/04      *Zen Buddhism*Read Koller (pages 309-334) and the selections from *Zen Buddhism*Week 16: Japanese PhilosophyM 12/07      *Zen Buddhism*W 12/09      *Zen Buddhism*      **\*2nd Essay Assignment Due\***Read selections from *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*Final Exam

M 12/14      (11:50 am — 1:50 pm)

**\*\*schedule is subject to revision\*\***