

# HISTORY OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

*Fall 2012 Syllabus*



शिव नतराज

Siva Natarāja, Chola Dynasty, c. A.D. 1000

Philosophy 300  
Sec 001  
CRN 10368  
M 5:00-7:45 PM  
Edith Kanaka'ole Hall 111

Dr. Timothy J. Freeman  
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*Office Hours: MWF 1:00-1:50PM and TR 2:00-3:00 PM or by appointment*

## CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **PHIL 300 History of Indian Philosophy**

The historic Indian schools of thought, Brahmanism, Jain, Carvaka, Buddhist, Samkyha, Yoga, Nyaya, Vaishesika, Mimamsa, and Vedanta. The main philosophers and thinkers of India including Gandhi, Radhakrishnan, and Tagore. Pre: previous work in philosophy or religious studies is recommended.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

*A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy*, edited by Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Charles A. Moore.  
Princeton University Press, 1957.

### COURSE WEB PAGE

<http://tfreeman.net/Philosophy/300.html>

## COURSE CONTENT

This course will follow a fairly chronological development of the history of Indian Philosophy. We will begin examining the origins of the Vedic culture from out of the prehistorical Indus Valley civilization and subsequent Aryan migrations. We will take a close look at the *Vedas* and the *Upanishads* and come to an understanding of the key terms, philosophical questions and standpoints that thus structure the Brahmanical tradition. In the next section we will focus primarily upon the full flowering epic expression of that tradition in the *Bhagavad Gita*. We then examine three streams of philosophical dissent from the orthodox tradition in the heterodox traditions of Carvaka, Jainism, and Buddhism. From there we move on to examine the development of the orthodox systems, focusing first on the Nyaya and Vaishesika systems and then on the Samkhya and Yoga. From there we turn to pick up the developing thread of Buddhism in the rise of the Mahayana Tradition. We return then to the Brahmanical tradition focusing on its ultimate development in the Vedanta philosophy. The last class will examine more modern developments in the Renaissance Period

We will address such questions as: What is the Self? What is the relationship of the Self to the mind and personality? What is the person's place in the world and cosmos? What is the goal, purpose, meaning of human life? What is psychological health? What are the means for attaining enlightenment—what are the spiritual practices used for reaching what goals?

## COURSE AIMS

By the end of the course the students will be expected to have attained and demonstrated a satisfactory level of competence in understanding:

- ◆ the basic characteristics of Indian Philosophy as distinguished from Western and other Asian Traditions.
- ◆ an awareness of the distinctive doctrines and historical interrelations of the six orthodox schools of Indian philosophy.
- ◆ the nature and philosophical significance of Jain and Buddhist dissent from the Vedic and Brahmanical tradition.
- ◆ the difference between the Theravada and Mahayana Buddhist traditions.
- ◆ the key terms and figures in the history of Indian philosophy.
- ◆ some of the central philosophical questions that animate the history of Indian philosophy.

**GRADING POLICY**

The final grade will be based on the following:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. 4-5 page essay assignment   | 20% |
| 2. Mid-Term Exam: in class exam involving identifying key terms and essay questions.                                   | 25% |
| 3. A 6-10 page term paper essay.   | 30% |
| 4. Final Exam: in class exam involving identifying key terms and essay questions.                                      | 25% |
| 5. A lack of participation in classroom discussion and 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 <sup>-</sup>	90-94	C	74-76 Satisfactory
B+	87-89	C <sup>-</sup>	70-73 Poor
B	84-86 Good	D	60-70 Failure
B <sup>-</sup>	80-83	F	below 60

**COURSE FORMAT**

Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion along with occasional video presentations.

**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.

\* 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 for accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office at (808) 933-0816 (Voice), (808) 933-3334 (TTY), or [uds@hawaii.edu](mailto:uds@hawaii.edu), Hale Kauano'e A Wing Lounge, 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 2011-2012 Undergraduate Catalog*:

**Week 1: Origins of Indian Philosophy**

M 08/20 Course Introduction and Orientation: *Darśana*  
Film: *Out of India*  
Indus Valley Civilization  
Read *Sourcebook* (xvii-xxxi)

**Week 2: The Vedas & The Upanishads**

M 08/27 *The Vedas: Sourcebook* (pages 3-36)  
*The Upaniṣads: Sourcebook* (37-64)

**Week 3: No class**

M 09/03 \*Holiday: Labor Day\*

**Week 4: The Upaniṣads**

M 09/10 *The Upaniṣads: Sourcebook* (64-96)  
\*last day to withdraw from courses without a "W"\*

**Week 5: Cārvāka & Jainism**

M 09/17 Cārvāka Materialism & The Jainism: *Sourcebook* (227-271)

**Week 6: Buddhism**

M 09/24 The Buddhist Vision: *Sourcebook* (272-328)  
and online selections from *The Pali Canon*

**Week 7: Sāṃkhya & Yoga**

M 10/01 The Sāṃkhya Vision and The *Yoga Sūtra* of Patañjali: *Sourcebook* (424-485)  
and online selections from the *Yoga Sūtra* of Patañjali

**Week 8: The Bhagavad Gītā**

M 10/08 **The *Bhagavad Gītā*: Sourcebook** (101-163)  
and online selections from the ***Bhagavad Gītā***  
\*\*October 12: Last Day to Withdraw from Courses with "W"\*\*

**Week 9: Mid-Term Exam**

M 10/15 Mid-Term Exam: key terms and short essay questions

**Week 10: Further Developments in the Epic Period**

M 10/22 Devotional Hinduism: online text  
 The *Manusmṛti* (*The Laws of Manu*): *Sourcebook* (172-192)  
 Kauṭīliya's *Ārthasāstra*: *Sourcebook* (193-223)

**Week 11: Mahāyāna Buddhism**

M 10/29 The *Prajñāpāramitā Sūtras*  
 Nāgārjuna and the Mādhyamika School  
 Read *Sourcebook* (338-346) and online selections from *Mahāyāna Buddhism*

**Week 12: Mahāyāna Buddhism**

M 11/05 Asaṅga and Vasubandhu and the Yogācāra School  
 Development of Tantra  
 Read *Sourcebook* (328-337) and online selections from *Mahāyāna Buddhism*

**Week 13: No Class**

M 11/12 \*Holiday: Veteran's Day\*

**Week 14: Development of the Orthodox Schools**

M 11/19 Gautama's *Nyāya Sūtra*: *Sourcebook* (356-379)  
 Kaṇāda's *Vaiśeṣika Sūtra*: *Sourcebook* (386-397)  
 Pūrvamīmāṃsā: *Sourcebook* (486-505)  
 Śaṅkara's Advaita Vedānta: *Sourcebook* (509-543)

**Week 15: Vedānta**

M 11/26 Śaṅkara's Advaita Vedānta: *Sourcebook* (509-543)  
 Rāmānuja's Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta: *Sourcebook* (543-555)  
 Madhva's Dvaita Vedānta: *Sourcebook* (555-572)

**Week 16: Renaissance in India**

M 12/03 Aurobindo & Radhakrishnan: *Sourcebook* (575-637)

**Final Exam**

W 12/12 (4:10 - 6:10 PM)

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