

**ASIAN PHILOSOPHIES**  
Philosophy 215 / Winter 2008

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This course provides an introductory survey of various Asian philosophies. Our goals are (1) to understand what might be distinctive of Asian philosophical approaches and; (2) to examine the questions raised and the answers offered with regard to certain core philosophical concerns. We start with a look at the beginnings and foundations of the long tradition of Indian thought by focusing on the Vedas, particularly, the Upanishads. Against this background, our focus will then turn to the origination and development of Buddhism. Next will be our exploration of Confucianism and Taoism, the two philosophical systems most influential in the development of Chinese philosophical thought. We will conclude by examining more recent developments of these original philosophies in Korea and Japan.

**Course requirements:**

1. Attendance & Participation<sup>1</sup>
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Mid-term Exam: Jan. 24 (Thurs), in class (30%)
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mid-term Exam: Feb. 14 (Thurs), in class (30%)
4. Final Exam: March 11 (Tues), 9:30-11:18am (40 %)

**Reading:**

Required

*Asian Philosophies*, John M. Koller, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2007), hereafter abbreviated as **PB (Purple Book)**

Recommended

*A Sourcebook in Asian Philosophy*, John & Patricia Koller, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1991), hereafter abbreviated as **RB (Red Book)**

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<sup>1</sup> Attending lectures is an essential component to the course and is mandatory. A key reason for this requirement is that the readings are intended to *supplement* the lectures and cannot substitute for them. Participation in lectures is encouraged. Active participants will be noted and rewarded for their contribution through extra credit.

## **Tentative Order of Topics and Readings:<sup>2</sup>**

Week 1 Introduction (**PB** chapter 1; **RB** chapter 1)

Week 2 The Indian Tradition (**PB** chapters 2-3 ; **RB** chapter 6)

Week 3 The Indian Tradition & Introduction to Buddhist Philosophies (**PB** chs. 4-6; **RB** chs. 7, 9)

Week 4 Buddhism & 1<sup>st</sup> Midterm Exam. (**PB** chs. 4-6 . ; **RB** chs. 10-11)

Week 5 Buddhist Philosophies continued (**PB** ch. 14; **RB** ch. 12-13)

Week 6 Chinese Philosophies: Introduction & Confucianism (**PB** chs. 15-16; **RB** ch.16, 18)

Week 7 Confucianism & 2<sup>nd</sup> Midterm Exam (**PB** chs. 15-16; **RB** ch.19)

Week 8 Confucianism & Taoism (**PB** chs. 17-18 ; **RB** ch.17 )

Week 9 Taoism (**PB** chs 17-18; **RB** ch. 17)

Week 10 The Philosophies of Korea and Japan (**PB** chs. 21-22)

### **Note on Academic Misconduct**

The University understands academic misconduct to include “any activity which tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution, or subvert the educational process” (<http://oaa.osu.edu/procedures/1.0.html>). Examples include, but are not limited to, such actions as cheating on exams and submitting a term paper written by another. Academic misconduct of any sort is a *very* serious violation of University requirements. University rules provide for extremely serious sanctions for academic misconduct, and faculty are required to forward any cases of suspected misconduct to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

### **Disability Services:**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Disability Services will be accommodated accordingly. Please inform me of any needs as soon as possible. The Office of Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>

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<sup>2</sup> These topics and readings are tentative. They will be adjusted as the course progresses if needed.