

PHIL 3722: ASIAN PHILOSOPHY

CUNY-Brooklyn College Study in China Program

Instructor: Dr. Yonggang Huang

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.

Field trips will be organized to multiple historical and cultural sites (e.g., Buddhist temples and monasteries, Daoist temple, Confucius Temple, and many museums) in Chinese cities of the program, which will help deepen students' understanding of the topics under discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. John Koller, *Asian Philosophies* (Pearson), 6th edition
--ISBN-10: 0205168981; ISBN-13: 978-0205168989
2. John and Patricia Koller (eds.), *A Sourcebook in Asian Philosophy* (Prentice Hall)
--ISBN-10: 0023658118 ; ISBN-13: 978-0023658112

COURSE OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be able to evaluate classical philosophical texts of India and China;
2. Students will be able to understand the classical philosophies of India and China and their shaping of modern Asia;
3. Students will develop the ability to assess different viewpoints and influential theories in Indian and Chinese cultures, and their relevance for us today.

EXPECTATIONS:

This course emphasizes learning about the past through reading, writing, discussion and visiting of historical sites in five cities of China. There are two types of reading for the course: secondary readings (written after the fact, by scholars looking back at the past) and primary sources (texts written during the past under study- the evidence that historians use to reconstruct and interpret past events). Students are expected to do both types of readings and to incorporate them into class discussions and written assignments.

It is especially important that students do both types of reading and attend both lecture and discussion sections. Without such preparation, students will not understand what is expected of them on papers and exams. Check the schedule of readings and assignments (below) to be sure of which readings must be completed for each class meeting.

All work must be your own. Plagiarism (copying someone else's words without attribution) will result in a failing grade and may result in disciplinary action. All work must be handed in on time. Late work may be penalized, and will not be returned in time to be of help in preparing for future assignments.

Students should actively participate in class activities. Prompt attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Each absence without instructor's permission will result in 2 percent deduction from the final grade of the course; two late arrivals or early departures are equal to one absence.

As this course is part of the study abroad program, students are advised that their behavior during the program may affect their final grade for the course.

Non-Brooklyn College students are required to keep a course portfolio of all work and assignment submissions for this course, to be evaluated by the appropriate office and committee at their home institution for equivalent credits.

ASSESSMENT:

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|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Presentation & Participation | 40% |
| 2. One 3-5 page paper & Journals | 40% |
| 3. Final exam | 20% |

Side Trip to Yangzhou

In addition to Beijing, Xi'an and Nanjing, Yangzhou is also an important site, especially its museums, for understanding classical Chinese philosophies and China's intellectual interactions with Indian thoughts and religions. We strongly recommend that each student in this class should plan for some additional fees for transportation, admissions and tour guide with the side trip to Yangzhou not covered in the regular program.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS:

Sessions 1-2:

Course-Introduction

Part I: Chinese Philosophy:

Chinese Philosophy: Overview

Sessions 3-5

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

Also Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 18 (pp. 461-75 only).

Confucianism

Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 16.

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

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

Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 19 (pp. 476-500 only).

Site visits: Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and Temple of Heaven/the Summer Palace in Beijing, Confucius Temple, Ming Emperor Tomb, & Dr. Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing, and Yangzhou Museum in Yangzhou.

Sessions 6-7

Daoism

Tao te Ching.

Tao te Ching (contd.).

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

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

Site visits: Daoist temple and Nanjing Museum in Nanjing.

Mid-term Exam

Part II: Indian Philosophy

Sessions 8-9

Indian Philosophy: Overview.

Paper-Topics Given Out. Also Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 1
Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 3 (also Carvaka handout).

Sessions 10-11

Hinduism

Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 2.

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

The Bhagavad Gita. Also Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 7

Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 10 (pp. 120-27 only).

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

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

Site visits: Tibetan Buddhism temples in Beijing and Nanjing.

Sessions 12-13

Part III: Buddhism

Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 4.

Rahula, Chapters I-V.

Rahula, Chapters VI-VIII.

Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 9, "Basic Teachings According to the Early Texts."

Koller, *Asian Philosophies*, Chapter 5.

Rahula, "Selected Texts" (pp. 91-138).

Kollers, *Sourcebook*, Chapter 10, "Philosophical Issues in Early Buddhism."

Site visits: Wild Goose Pagoda and Xuanzang Buddhist Statue in Xi'an; Jiming Buddhist Temple in Nanjing

Session 14

Course Summation and Conclusion.

Final Exam

Assignment of Keeping Journals:

An important goal of the program is to enable each student to explore and experience China in his or her own individual ways, such that you can obtain maximum academic benefits from this China trip. Keeping a journal during the trip will serve that purpose well.

You will be keeping a journal during the trip and submit the journal entries as part of the trip and course participation to their course instructor (with a copy to Prof. Lu, the program director); see the instructors' email addresses below. Here are some guidelines:

How to Write a Journal Entry

1. Describe a **specific, very meaningful, phenomenon or incident that** you observe or experience during the 2-3 days, something that caught your attention and has an impact on you personally, culturally or intellectually, or something that has touched you deeply. Do not just list what you have done during the

days (which will give you no credit). Tell us the story, with descriptive details, of a meaningful **intercultural encounter/instance**. This should be the 1st paragraph.

2. Then, in the 2nd paragraph, analyze or reflect upon that. Write down your reflections and thoughts on that experience or observation from a cross-cultural or intercultural perspective. If you are in one of those non-language classes, try to tie that to what you have read in the textbook(s) or what we are discussing in class.
3. In the 3rd paragraph, summarize or conclude this journal entry by making connections to a larger picture of what you have read, heard and studied previously in other classes, or even what you have experienced back in America and/or other contexts.
4. Each entry should be about 3 paragraphs in length. However, you are free to organize your ideas in what you believe to be creative ways; it is not a good idea to write one journal entry in only one paragraph.

How and When to Submit

1. Write an entry about every 3 days; a total of 7 (SEVEN) journals are expected of you during the trip:
 - a. ONE entry for visit to Beijing
-- to be submitted on the day when you arrive in 2nd city of Xi'an
 - b. ONE for visit to Xi'an
-- to be submitted on the day when you arrive in Nanjing
 - c. THREE entries during stay in Nanjing (including side trips if any)
-- be submitted every 3 days
 - d. ONE for visit to Suzhou and Shanghai
-- to be submitted while in Shanghai; and
 - e. ONE final entry reflecting on the program
-- to be submitted one day after the program concludes
2. Submit your journals via email to the instructor via email:
 - a. Email each entry to Professor Huang at: huangfred@hotmail.com
 - b. And copy Professor Lu, the program director, on each entry, at: ChinaJournals@yahoo.com
3. At the beginning of each journal, please clearly indicate:
 - a. the course #(s),
 - b. course title(s),
 - c. the professor(s) of the course(s), if you are taking more than one course
4. Name each journal entry clearly, by making the subject of the message as Journal #1 (#2, #3, #4, etc.) from XXXX(your full name).
5. In one email message, only send one journal entry by way of **copy & paste** (Do not send it in attachment, please). Do NOT include more than one journal entry in one message.

Grade and Reward

1. The professor will read your journals and respond if needed. If your journals are well written, professors may use them to replace some assignments of the course.
2. If you are taking more than one course, you still only write a total of SEVEN journal entries; be sure you email each entry to both instructors if you are taking two courses from two professors.
3. The journals are part of the trip and course participation grade.
4. If you have been doing an exceptionally good job with the journals, the professors will give you extra credit (as much as 10% of the grade) for the course(s), at the professors' discretion.