

**Phil 1223: Introduction to Asian Philosophy**  
**Spring 2016**

**Instructor**

Seth Robertson

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-4 PM and by appointment

Class Location: Dale Hall 116

Final Exam: Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:30 PM, Dale Hall 116

**Course Description**

This course surveys some of the most important philosophical ideas, arguments, and systems from South and East Asia. Specifically, we will focus on the philosophical foundations of the Indian traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism and the Chinese traditions of Confucianism and Daoism. In all cases, our goals will not be primarily historical or exegetical – we will treat these texts as providing live philosophical options, relevant to thinking and learning about the world today and our place in it.

**Course Requirements**

**I. Exams.** We will have three exams. Exam 1 will cover Indian philosophy; exam 2 will cover Chinese philosophy. The final exam will be cumulative.

**II. Essays.** Students will be expected to write three essays. Additional guidelines for these essays will be offered as each assignment approaches.

**III. In-class Activities.** We will frequently engage in in-class activities. These will range from quizzes, to group discussions, to team competitions. Your class participation grade is determined by participation in these activities.

**Grade Distribution**

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Essays: 30% (10% each)

Participation: 10%

Final Exam: 20%

**Required Texts**

Note: To avoid unnecessary confusion, please purchase only the translations specified here.

Joel Kupperman, *Classic Asian Philosophy*. Oxford, 2006. ISBN: 0195189817

Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan Van Norden, *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Hackett, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. ISBN: 0872207803

*Upanishads*, trans. Eknath Easwaran. Nilgiri Press, 2007. ISBN: 9781586380212

*Dhammapada*, trans. Eknath Easwaran. Nilgiri Press, 2007. ISBN: 9781586380205

*Bhagavad Gita*, trans. Eknath Easwaran. Nilgiri Press, 2007. ISBN: 9781586380199

**Late/Missed Work Policies**

Exams may be rescheduled if the student provides an acceptable excuse, but must be taken as soon as possible. The deadline for the essay is a hard deadline – there will be a 5% reduction in grade for each day after the deadline that it is turned in. In-class activities cannot be made-up, but every student is allowed to miss 2 without penalty.

**E-mail & Electronic Devices**

Laptops are not permitted for use in class. Exceptions will be made only where there is some documented need for the device.

**Honor Policy**

Students are expected to do their own work. If you violate standards of academic integrity, I will seek to impose the severest penalty the university permits. If you are unclear about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, or improper collaboration, please consult the OU website at <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity/>

**Religious Holidays**

It is the policy of the University to excuse student absences that result from religious observances and to reschedule any exams that were missed owing to such observances. If you do encounter such a problem, please consult with me as soon as possible.

**Reasonable Accommodation Policy**

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so that we may discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation.

**Syllabus Policy**

This syllabus is subject to change. The most updated version of this syllabus will be posted on D2L.

## Course Schedule

Below is the course schedule – both the assignments and their currently assigned dates may be changed over the course of the semester. Students are responsible for keeping up with any announced changes in our schedule. Most assignments from the Ivanhoe and Van Norden book are given by the name of the Chinese text and then the passage numbers. If you are at all unclear about any assignment, please ask!

Date	Topic	Assignments
1/20	Introduction	None
1/22	Upanishads	Kupperman, Chapter 1 Suggested: <i>Upanishads: Introduction</i> (pp. 13-47)
1/25		<i>Upanishads: Isha, Katha, Brihadaranyaka</i>
1/27		<i>Upanishads: Chandogya, Shvetashvatara</i>
1/29		<i>Upanishads: Mundaka, Mandukya</i>
2/1	Indian Buddhism	Kupperman, Chapter 2 Suggested: <i>Dhammapada: Introduction</i> (pp. 13-104)
2/3		<i>Dhammapada</i> , Chapter 1-9
2/5		<i>Dhammapada</i> , Chapter 10-18
2/8		<i>Dhammapada</i> , Chapter 19-26( <b>Essay #1 due</b> )
2/10	Bhagavad Gita	Kupperman, Chapter 3 Suggested: <i>Bhagavad Gita: Introduction</i> (pp. 13-67)
2/12		<i>Bhagavad Gita</i> , Chapters 1-5
2/15		<i>Bhagavad Gita</i> , Chapters 5-9
2/17		<i>Bhagavad Gita</i> , Chapters 10-14
2/19		<i>Bhagavad Gita</i> , Chapters 14-18
2/22		Discussion and Review
2/24	<b>Exam 1</b>	
2/26	Confucius	Kupperman, Chapter 5
2/29		Kupperman, Chapter 5 (con't);
3/2		Final Essay assignment given; discussion of philosophical writing ( <b>Essay #2 due</b> )
3/4		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Analects</i> , Book 1-3
3/7		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Analects</i> , Book 3-7
3/9		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Analects</i> , Book 8-11
3/11		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Analects</i> , Book 12-14
3/21	Confucianism: Mencius	Kupperman, Chapter 6
3/23		Kupperman, Chapter 6 (con't)
3/25		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Mengzi (Mencius)</i> , 1A7, 2A6, 3A5, 4B19, 4B28, 6A10, 6A15, 7A7, 7A15
3/28		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Mengzi (Mencius)</i> , 4B28, 6A10, 6A15, 7A7, 7A15
3/30		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Mengzi (Mencius)</i> , 2A2, 4A11, 6A1 – 6A4, 7A1
4/1		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Mengzi (Mencius)</i> , 6A1 – 6A4, 7A1
4/4	Confucianism: Xunzi	In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Xunzi</i> , Chapters 1, 2, 17, 19, 23 (the rest is recommended but not required)
4/6	Daoism: <i>Daodejing</i>	Kupperman, Chapter 7
4/8		Kupperman, Chapter 7 (con't)
4/11		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Laozi</i> , Chapters 1, 2, 5, 18,
4/13		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Laozi</i> , Chapters 19, 20, 28-31

4/15		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Laozi</i> , Chapters 34, 46, 47,
4/18		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Laozi</i> , Chapters 55, 56, 63, 76
4/20	Daoism: Zhuangzi	Kupperman, Chapter 8
4/22		Ch. 8 (con't)
4/25		Essay writing workshop
4/27		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Zhuangzi</i> , pp. 224-226, 237-241, 247 (top of page to bottom), 249-250
4/29		In Ivanhoe and Van Norden: <i>Zhuangzi</i> , pp. 213-224 <b>(Essay #3 Due)</b>
5/02		Discussion and Review
5/04	<b>Exam 2</b>	
5/06		Final Exam Discussion and Review