

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this course is three-fold. First, we will take a look at some of the major philosophies that have arisen within the many intellectual traditions of Asia & The West. Secondly, we will compare and investigate the ways in which these philosophies approach various philosophical issues and themes. Thirdly, and probably most importantly, we will use these investigations as a spring-board for our own philosophical investigations and reflections on various topics.

**CLASS MEETING TIME:** Our class will generally meet on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00 – 9:30 P.M. in room 107 of Peterson Hall at Linfield’s Portland Campus. The assignments given below are to have been completed on the day that they are listed & will be discussed during that class period.

Please note that students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.

**REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:** I will assess your performance in the course according to the following criteria:

- a) **Class Participation (25%)** – Given the nature of the course, I will expect you to be present, prepared & ready to discuss the topics we are looking at that day.
- b) **Three Weekly Summaries (25%)** - At the beginning of each week I would like you to turn a page of what we have covered in the previous week. These summaries should be 2 - 4 pages apiece and should articulate what you take to be the prominent philosophical themes & principles/arguments for these themes, in the previous week of class. I will assign grades based upon how a) accurate, b) clear, and c) insightful your summary is.
- c) **Take-Home Exam (50%)** – There will be a take-home exam over the material we’ve covered during this course. The questions for the exam will be given out on the last day of class. You will then have until the following Tuesday to prepare & organize your responses. You may mail, e-mail, or hand deliver your responses to me. This exam will be divided into two parts:
  - ⌚ **Part One** – The first part of the exam will primarily be analytical. I will assign grades based upon the understanding & skill you demonstrate in dealing with the material presented in the test questions. In essence, I’ll be asking you to explain the material back to me as if you were teaching it to me.
  - ⌚ **Part Two** – In the second part of the exam I will ask you to offer your own philosophical response some of the philosophical issues we’ve been studying & discussing. This portion of the test is not meant to be a summary of what we’ve been gone over, although summing up key points may very well be helpful. Rather, it is an opportunity for you to analyze, criticize & philosophize about the philosophies we’ve encountered (in both our readings and discussions) up to that point. In other words, it is a chance for you to be a philosopher. I will assign grades based upon you’re a) clarity of expression, b) rigor of philosophizing, c) skill in working with the philosophical material at hand, and d) depth & originality of insight.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- ⌚ **A Companion to World Philosophies.** Eliot Deutsch & Ron Bontekoe, eds.
- ⌚ **Introduction to World Philosophies.** Eliot Deutsch, ed.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

#### **Section One: Foundations & Issues of Classical Asian Philosophy**

- 🕒 January 13: **a) Introduction to Course, b) Introductory lecture on Classical South Asian Philosophy, c) Introductory lecture on Classical Buddhist Philosophy.**
- 🕒 January 15: Selected readings from **A Companion to World Philosophy - a) pg. 290 - 303 "The concept of the Good in Indian Philosophy", b) pg. 349 - 359 "Ideas of the Good in Buddhist philosophy", c) pg. 248 - 258 "Indian Conceptions of reality & divinity", d) pg. 392 - 399 "Buddhist reality & Divinity", e) pg. 400 - 409 "The Buddhist concept of self"**.
- 🕒 January 20: **a) Introductory lecture on classical East Asian Philosophy** & selected readings from **A Companion to World Philosophy - b) pg. 148 - 154 "The Chinese conception of self", c) pg. 185 - 200 "Reality & Divinity in Chinese philosophy", d) pg. 214 - 224 "the way & the truth",**

## **Section Two: Issues in Comparative Philosophy**

- 🕒 January 22: Virtue & the possibility of moral life.  
**Introduction to World Philosophies. a) pg. 98 - 106** selections from Aristotle's "*Nicomachean Ethics*", **b) pg. 107 - 126** selections from "*The Bhagavad Gita*", **c) pg. 127 - 138** selections from Confucius' "*Analects*" & Fingerette's "*The Secular as Sacred*", **d) pg. 149 - 152** selections from Mill's "*Utilitarianism*", **e) 153 - 159** selections from Nietzsche's "*Natural History of Morals*".
- 🕒 January 27: The Just Ruler & The Just Society.  
**Introduction to World Philosophies. a) pg. 160 - 165** selections from Plato's "*Republic*", **b) pg. 166 - 169** selections from Lao Tzu's/Laozi's "*Tao te Ching/Daodexing*", **c) 170 - 173** selections from Kropotkin's "*Anarchist View of Law & Authority*", **d) pg. 174 - 177** selections from Hanfetz/Hanfeizi's "*Legalism*", **e) pg. 178 - 183** selections from Locke's "*Second Treatise on Civil Government*", **f) pg. 201 - 206** selections from M.K. Gandhi's "*Nonviolence as a Political Method*".
- 🕒 January 29: Reason, understanding & the possibility of knowledge.  
**Introduction to World Philosophies - a) pg. 211-218** Tiles "*Images of Reason in Western Culture*", **b) pg. 254 - 259** Ames "*Images of Reason in Chinese Culture*, **c) pg. 282 - 292** selections from Datta & Potter on "*Indian Ways of Knowing*", **d) pg. 224 - 228** selections from Descartes "*Discourse on Method*", **e) pg. 240 - 246** selections from Kant's "*Critique of pure Reason*".
- 🕒 February 3: What does "real" mean?  
**Introduction to World Philosophies - a) pg. 300 - 302** selections from Plato's "*Republic*", **b) pg. 303 - 304** Chuang tzu's/Zhuangzi's "*Dreaming & Waking*", **c) pg. 319 - 322** selection from Kant's "*Critique of Pure*

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*Reason*", **d) pg. 323 - 334** selections from Sankara's "*Brahmasutrabashya*" & Deutsch's "*Advaita Vedanta: a philosophical reconstruction*" **e) pg. 335 - 344** selections from Spinoza's "*Ethics*", **f) pg. 345 - 347** selection from Dogen's "*Shobgenzo*".

🕒 February 5: The ground of meaning & religious experience

**Introduction to World Philosophies** - **a) pg. 478 - 480** Flew's "*Theology & Falsification*", **b) pg. 390 - 401** selections from Tillich's "*Dynamics of Faith*", **c) pg. 422 - 425** selections from Freud's "*The Future of an Illusion*", **d) pg. 426 - 430** selections from James' "*Varieties of Religious Experience*", **e) pg. 440 - 444** selections from Suzuki's "*Introduction to Zen Buddhism*"