Division Course Syllabus

Division   Humanities  
Course Prefix and Number   PHIL 1223

Course Title   Introduction to Asian Philosophy
Semester and Year Submitted   Fall 2017  
Credit Hours   3
Prepared by   Antoinette Castillo

Hours Per Week:  
Class   3  
Lab   0

Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)

This course will introduce students to the foundational texts of the major philosophic schools from India and China, with emphasis on Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Daoism. We will examine the primary philosophic questions addressed by each tradition, and where appropriate seek to make connections to parallels in Western thought. Overall, the goal of this course is to introduce how these different traditions offer valuable contributions to general philosophical questions. Prerequisite: ENGL 1113 or concurrent enrollment.

Prerequisites

ENGL 1113 or concurrent enrollment

Text(s):

Title
Author
Publisher
Copyright Date
ISBN #

Reading Level

Supplemental Materials:

(Other books, audio visual aids, etc.)

Primary text reading materials in Canvas/Packet
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale: Asian philosophy encompasses an important tradition in philosophical study that provides an alternative perspective for Western students. In an increasingly global society, such fundamental and diverse perspectives are necessary for students to understand the major traditions of other people in the world in order that they may interact more intelligently and humanely in their global community.

Expected Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, the student should:

1. Be familiar with the basic questions and concerns in Asian philosophy.
2. Be able to define and explain relevant vocabulary and arguments in Asian philosophy.
3. Be familiar with the positions held by certain individual philosophers.
4. Be equipped in the application of critical reasoning skills to Asian philosophy.
5. Be aided in one's understanding of, and appreciation for, Asian philosophical systems and positions that differ from one's own.
6. Be aided and encouraged in the development of one's own philosophical positions and convictions.

Methods of Instruction:
Formal Lecture
Lecture and Discussion
Internet or Computer-based Instruction
Inquiry Approach
Research
Relevant videos or film clips

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements):
Students will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of course content by way of examinations, written assignments, and projects. Grades will be assigned based on a predetermined scale.
Suggested:
25% Objective examinations over assigned material, including, but not limited to, vocabulary terms, persons and their positions, philosophical concepts
50% Written assignments that require either summaries of assigned readings, responses to assigned readings or other student writing, or development of complex arguments based on the readings studied.
25% Final examination synthesizing all major components of the course

Learning Objectives:

Unit 1: Understanding the fundamental questions and concerns addressed by Asian philosophy and the philosophical reasoning techniques used to address those questions and issues (outcomes 1 & 4)
1. Student will be introduced to and practice using philosophical reading and reasoning techniques.
Unit 2: Understanding the fundamental questions and concerns addressed by Hindu philosophy (outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)
1. Students will read and discuss key parts of the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita
2. Students will quiz over those sections to demonstrate understanding of relevant vocabulary.
3. In a written analysis of approximately 750 words, students will demonstrate that they can critically analyze and apply the core concepts of Hinduism.

Unit 3: Understanding the fundamental questions and concerns addressed by Buddhist philosophy (outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)
1. Students will read and discuss key parts of the Dhammapada and Bodhicaryavatara
2. Students will quiz over those sections to demonstrate understanding of relevant vocabulary.
3. In a written analysis of approximately 750 words, students will demonstrate that they can critically analyze and apply the core concepts of Buddhism.

Unit 4: Understanding the fundamental questions and concerns addressed by Confucian philosophy (outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)
1. Students will read and discuss key parts of the Analects, Mengzi, Xunzi, and Mozi
2. Students will quiz over those sections to demonstrate understanding of relevant vocabulary.
3. In a written analysis of approximately 750 words, students will demonstrate that they can critically analyze and apply the core concepts of Buddhism.

Unit 5: Understanding the fundamental questions and concerns addressed by Daoist philosophy (outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)
1. Students will read and discuss key parts of the Dao De Jing and Zhuangzi.
2. Students will quiz over those sections to demonstrate understanding of relevant vocabulary.
3. In a written analysis of approximately 750 words, students will demonstrate that they can critically analyze and apply the core concepts of Daoism.

Unit 6: Understanding the fundamental questions and concerns addressed by Zen Buddhist and Islamic Sufist philosophy (outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)
1. Students will read and discuss key parts of the The Bevels of Wisdom and Zen Flesh, Zen Bones
2. Students will quiz over those sections to demonstrate understanding of relevant vocabulary.
3. In a written analysis of approximately 750 words, students will demonstrate that they can critically analyze and apply the core concepts of Zen Buddhism and Islamic Sufism.

Unit 7: Comparing and Synthesizing Asian Philosophical Systems in Articulation of the Student's Own Philosophy (outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)
1. On a written examination, students will distinguish between the core principles of the major philosophical systems studied.
2. On a written examination, students will provide explanation key issues in Asian philosophical systems and the students' own core principles.