

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Fall 2018
Discipline:	Philosophy and Religious Studies
Course Number and Title:	PHIL 170 World Philosophies
Division:	Lower
Faculty Name:	Dr. Matthew MacKenzie
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

World Philosophies is a survey and critical engagement with several philosophical traditions from around the world. Our focus will be on the idea of *philosophy as a way of life*. That is, we will approach philosophical questions, texts, and traditions through the lens of what Roman Emperor and Stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius called *the art of living*. We will read and discuss great philosophical works from Greece, Rome, Africa, India, and China. Texts include Plato's *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, Śāntideva's *Bodhicaryāvatāra* (Guide to the Awakened Life), and the *Daodejing* (The Classic of the Way and Virtue). For each tradition, we will examine its theory of reality, account of human personhood, and ethics. The course structure will include lecture, discussion, student presentations, and field experience. Students will be expected to write several short philosophical essays on the material. Students will be asked to sympathetically, but critically, engage with the material, fellow classmates, and myself. Students will also be expected to reflect critically on the similarities and differences between these traditions, and on your worldview. Students will learn to identify and distinguish main historical traditions; identify and explain key philosophical concepts; read and comprehend key texts; write clearly and cogently on a variety of topics in world philosophy; and apply basic philosophical concepts to discuss problems of philosophical significance.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- *Identify and distinguish* main historical traditions in ancient western, Indian, and Chinese philosophy.
- *Identify and explain* key philosophical concepts as they arise in the different traditions, such as *eudaimonia*, *karma*, and *wu-wei*.
- *Read and comprehend* key texts in world philosophy.
- *Write* clearly and cogently on a variety of topics in world philosophy.

- Apply basic philosophical concepts to discuss problems of philosophical significance, such as the nature of the good life, the mind-body problem, the nature and existence of the self, and the structure and scope of morality.
- Employ active methods of comparison and contrast to achieve a deeper awareness of one's own culture and its historical and contemporary relationship with other cultures.
- Gain comprehensive knowledge of and empathy with the peoples, cultures and geography of the regions visited on the voyage.
- Develop keen powers of observation and employ writing skills and various communication technologies to record and evaluate experiences throughout the voyage.
- Understand the diversity of cultures and traditions in the world and develop tolerance and appreciation of differences.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Plato (Grube and Cooper trans.)
 TITLE: *The Trial and Death of Socrates*
 PUBLISHER: Hackett
 ISBN #: 0872205541
 DATE/EDITION: 2000/3rd Edition

AUTHOR: Epictetus
 TITLE: *The Handbook*
 PUBLISHER: Hackett
 ISBN #: 0915145693
 DATE/EDITION: 1983

AUTHOR: Graham Schweig (trans.)
 TITLE: *Bhagavadgītā*
 PUBLISHER: HarperCollins
 ISBN #: 0061997307
 DATE/EDITION: 2010

AUTHOR: Śāntideva (Crosby and Skilton trans.)
 TITLE: *Bodhicaryāvatāra*
 PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press
 ISBN #: 0199540438
 DATE/EDITION: 2008

AUTHOR: Ivanhoe and Van Norden (eds.)
 TITLE: *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*
 PUBLISHER: Hackett
 ISBN #: 0872207803
 DATE/EDITION: 2005/2nd Edition

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Hamburg, Germany — September 9

B1—September 12: Introduction, Hadot “Philosophy as a Way of Life”

GREEK PHILOSOPHY

B2—September 14: Plato: *Euthyphro*

Barcelona, Spain — September 15-16

Valencia, Spain — September 17-18

B3—September 20: *Apology*

B4—September 22: *Crito*

Study Day — September 23: No Class

AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

B5—September 25: Mawere, “Africa and its Philosophical Thought”; Paper 1

Tema, Ghana — September 27-30

B6—October 1: Wiredu, “The African Concept of Personhood”

Community Programming — October 2: No Class

B7—October 4: Menkiti, “Person and Community in African Traditional Thought”

INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

B8—October 6: *Bhagavad Gītā*: 1-2

Cape Town, South Africa — October 7-12

B9—October 14: *Gītā*: 3-7

Study Day —October 16: No Class

B10—October 17: *Gītā*: 8-12

Port Louis, Mauritius — October 19

B11—October 20: *Gītā*: 15, 18

Study Day—October 21: No Class

B12—October 23: *Bodhicaryāvatāra*: General Intro, 1, 3; Paper 2

Cochin, India — October 25-30

Reflection and Study—October 31: Global Studies Reflection

B13—November 1: *BCA*: 6

B14—November 3: *BCA*: 8, Harris “Does Anātman Really Entail Altruism?”

Yangon, Myanmar — November 4-8

CHINESE PHILOSOPHY

B15—November 10: *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* (CP): Intro, Ch. 1: Books 1, 2, 4

Community Programming—November 11: No Class

B16—November 13: Confucianism: Ch. 1: Books, 12, 16, 17; Ch. 3: Intro, 2A6, Book 6; Paper 3

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — November 14-18

B17—November 20: *CP*: Ch. 6: Intro, Ch. 19, 23

Study Day — November 21: No Class

B18—November 23: Daoism: *CP*: Ch. 4: Intro, 1-4

Shanghai, China — November 24-29

B19—December 1: Presentations

Kobe, Japan — December 2-6

B20—December 8: *CP*: 8, 11, 17-19, 25

B21—December 10: *CP*: 60, 63, 71, 78, 81

ROMAN PHILOSOPHY

B22—December 12: Epictetus, *The Handbook*: Intro, §§ 1-3

B23—December 14: *HB*: §§ 4-25, Irvine “Dichotomy of Control”; Paper 4

Honolulu, Hawaii — December 16

B24—December 17: *HB*: §§ 26-53

Study Day — December 18: No Class

B25—December 20: Final Exam

Arrive San Diego, California — December 23

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class & Assignment

The Field Class for this course is **Saturday, November 24 in Shanghai, China.**

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

Confucianism and Daoism in Contemporary China

We will visit the Confucius Temple and the Town God (Daoist) Temple in Shanghai. We will learn about the history, beliefs, and practices of both Confucianism and (religious) Daoism. We will reflect on similarities and differences between the textual accounts of these schools and their contemporary expressions and developments.

Learning Objectives

- Gain an understanding of the similarities and differences between these traditions.
- Connect the readings and core philosophical concepts of Confucianism and Daoism to contemporary expressions and practices.
- Identify contemporary cites or practices influenced by these traditions.
- Reflect on the continued relevance of Confucianism and Daoism in China.
- Reflect on similarities and differences with one's religious and/or philosophical background.

Field Assignment

Students will be expected to actively, reflectively, and respectfully engage with people, practices, and locations on the field experience. You will have the chance to compare, contrast, synthesize, and critically reflect upon the philosophical ideas and texts from the course in the context of the field experience. Upon return, you will:

- write a reflection/analysis paper (4-5 pages),
- develop a list of discussion questions
- discuss your papers and questions in small groups

- do a short class presentation on the insights and further questions that have emerged.

Independent Field Assignments

Students will complete two short reflection and analysis assignments in other ports. These papers will be based on your independent observation and reflection. You will be assessed on your ability to reflectively compare, contrast, synthesize, and/or apply core concepts and knowledge from the course.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Class Participation (10%): You are required to come to class on time and prepared to discuss all assigned materials. Your class participation grade will be based on both the quality and the frequency of your participation in class discussions.

Papers (40%): You will write four short (4-5 pages) essays throughout the semester (10% each). Questions/topics will be given one week prior to the due date. *Papers are to be submitted through Canvas.* Check the course schedule for due dates.

Field Experience (20%): Active, reflective, and respectful participation in the field experiences is expected (10%). Students will complete a reflection paper, group discussion, and presentation upon returning from the FE (10%).

Field Assignments (10%): Students will complete two short reflection and analysis assignments in other ports (5% each).

Final Exam (20%): Students will complete a cumulative written final exam. The exam will involve vocabulary, short answer questions, passage interpretation, and critical essays.

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%:
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

None

FILM REQUEST

Title of Film: Genius of the Ancient World

Distributor: BBC

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

P. Hadot, "Philosophy as a Way of Life"
M. Mawere, "Africa and its Philosophical Thought"
K. Wiredu, "The African Concept of Personhood"
I. Menkiti, "Person and Community in African Traditional Thought"
S. Harris, "Does Anātman Really Entail Altruism?"
W. Irvine, "Dichotomy of Control"

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

None