

PHI 105: World Philosophies
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45
Spring 2010
BHA 11

Instructor: Elizabeth M. Meade
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Office Hour: Tuesday and Thursday 11-12 and by appointment

Textbooks: *The Philosophical Quest: A Cross-Cultural Reader*, Second Edition
Gail M. Presbey, Karsten J. Struhl, Richard E. Olsen, eds.
Awakening: An Introduction to the History of Eastern Thought, Fourth Edition,
Patrick S. Bresnan

Course Description:

People have always asked themselves the big philosophical questions: what does it mean to be a human being? Why are we here? Is there a life after this one? We will look at some of the answers provided to these questions in three major traditions (Western, Indian and Chinese) as well as many other traditions in world philosophy. But most importantly, we will learn to ask and answer these questions for ourselves.

Course requirements

Two short papers	50%	Attendance	10%
Midterm exam	20%	Final exam	20%

Course Policies

- ❖ Students must retain a hard copy of all submitted work
- ❖ Students must complete and submit all required work to pass
- ❖ Work that is submitted late without prior consent from the instructor will be penalized 1/3 grade per day until it is received
- ❖ Attendance is required and graded. Chronic lateness will result in a drop in the attendance grade.
- ❖ I will only respond to emails sent through your Cedar Crest email account, in order to comply with federal regulations designed to protect your privacy. In addition, I will only send emails to your Cedar Crest email account
- ❖ I will accept work emailed to me, from your CCC account only and only in Word format (.doc or .docx extension). HOWEVER, I will not accept the statement that the work was emailed as an excuse for not receiving it. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that the work is received
- ❖ Please silence your cell phones.

- ❖ Anyone texting during class will be asked to leave the class and the day will be counted as an absence.
- ❖ PowerPoint slides will be made available through eCompanion. However, they are provided as a privilege and not as a right. They should not be used as a substitute for taking notes. I reserve the right to cease making them available.
- ❖ Plagiarism will be penalized either with a failing grade for the paper, or with a failing grade for the course, depending on the severity of the case, at my discretion

Plagiarism is representing another person's words or ideas as your own. If you include words or ideas in your paper or test which come from another source, without letting me know with the appropriate documentation, you have plagiarized. The source can be anything: Web pages, newspapers, your textbook, a television show. There is an appropriate way to document every conceivable kind of source. It is plagiarism whether it is a direct quote, a paraphrase, or an idea. "Forgetting" to put in citations is not an acceptable excuse for plagiarism, any more than "forgetting to pay" is an acceptable excuse for shoplifting. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be dealt with seriously.

Course objectives

- ❖ By the end of this course, students will be expected to demonstrate:
- ❖ Familiarity with the ideas and themes of the three major traditions of world philosophy: Western, Indian and Chinese.
- ❖ Acquaintance with some ideas and themes of other traditions of philosophy, including Native American, South American and Southeast Asian.
- ❖ Facility with abstract ideas and concepts
- ❖ Ability to write with comfort on philosophical themes.

E-Companion

In order to reduce the use of paper, this course will utilize the eCompanion software to post all documents for the course: the syllabus, PowerPoint slides, paper topics, study guides, etc. I will not distribute paper copies in class, although I will project the documents in class and discuss them. You are free to print, if you need a print copy, but I encourage you to work with the electronic copy as far as possible. You will also post your papers to the drop box on the eCompanion site. Please call IT at 3348 if you have trouble accessing the eCompanion site.

Honor Philosophy

This course will be conducted in accordance with the principles of the Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy.

Email Policy

All communications must be made using Cedar Crest College email accounts. This is to protect your privacy, in accordance with federal law.

Class Cancellation Policy

In the event that I must cancel class, I will make every reasonable effort to email each of you at your Cedar Crest College account. If the cancellation is weather related, and the College is remaining open, you may check my voicemail at extension 3417. If I need to cancel class because of weather, I will leave an outgoing message on my voicemail advising students that class is cancelled.

Statement on Accommodations

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with their professors during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.

Readings and Assignments

- Jan. 19 Introduction to World Philosophies
Introduction to India
- Jan. 21 Introduction to Indian Philosophy
Bresnan, Chapters 1 and 2 (“India Before the Vedas” and “Veda and the Vedas”)
- Jan. 26 Buddhism in India
Bresnan, Chapters 8 and 9 (“The Life of Shakyamuni Buddha” and “Basic Teaching of Shakyamuni Buddhism”)
- Jan. 28 Buddhism in India, cont.
- Feb. 2 Introduction to Chinese Philosophy – Confucianism
Bresnan, Chapter 12 (“Confucius and Confucianism”)
- Feb. 4 Introduction to Chinese Philosophy – Daoism
Bresnan, Chapter 13 (“Daoism”)
- Feb. 9 Introduction to Western Philosophy
Read: Section on “Ancient Greece and Rome” on-line at *First paper due!*
<http://history.hanover.edu/project.html#ancient>

I. What is Reality?

- Feb. 11 **Quest:** pp. 15-17 (Plato)
p. 18 (Crazy Horse)
- Feb. 16 **Bresnan:** Chapter 3 (“Introduction to the Upanishads”)
Quest: pp. 41-45 (Upanishads)
- Feb. 18 **Bresnan**, Chapter 17 (“Chan Buddhism”)
Quest: pp. 51-57 (Hui Neng)
- Feb. 23 **Quest:** pp. 28-41 (Berkeley)
- Feb. 25 **Quest:** pp. 59- 66 (Materialism)
- Mar. 2 Review for Midterm
- Mar. 4 **Midterm**
- Mar. 9 No Class – Spring Break
- Mar. 11 No Class – Spring Break

II. Human Nature

- Mar. 16 **Quest:** pp. 210-214 (Mencius)
 pp. 214-217 (Hsun Tzu)
- Mar. 18 **Quest:** pp. 217-221 (Hobbes)
- Mar. 23 **Quest:** pp. 222-226 (Kropotkin)
- Mar. 25 **Quest:** pp. 234-241 (Sartre)
- Mar. 30 **Quest:** pp. 252-264 (Women in Islam)
- Apr. 1 **Quest:** pp. 264-267 (de Beauvoir)
- Apr. 6 Surprise! Follow Monday schedule!
- Apr. 8 **Quest:** pp. 274-281) (Allen)

III. The Self

- Apr. 13 **Quest:** pp. 293-300 (Descartes and Hume) *Second Paper due!*
- Apr. 15 **Quest:** pp. 303-304 (Upanishads)
 pp. 304-306 (Milinda)
- Apr. 20 **Quest:** pp. 310-316 (Izutsu)
- Apr. 22 **Quest:** pp. 317-322 (Parfit)
- Apr. 27 **Quest:** pp. 335-338 (Tibetan Book of the Dead)
- Apr. 29 **Quest:** pp. 345-352 (Plato)
- May 4 Review for final