Honors 2104

FALL 2017 / Tues/Thurs / 9:10-10:30 am / MHC 1206A

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Office Hours: Mon. 1:30-3:00 pm, Tues. 11:00-1:00 pm or by appointment
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Class Overview

This course is intended to serve as an interdisciplinary introduction to the thought and values in various Asian traditions expressed through religion, philosophy, literature and art. We will be reading primary sources in translation in order to accomplish the following objectives:

- Explore foundational texts and dialogue with their authors.
- Examine various genres of writing and understand implications of the forms.
- Compare the ideas within the works to those in Western tradition using background information provided in lectures and suggested readings.

The course is heavily based on the discussion of the readings and I will be asking everyone to express an opinion about the works and to defend the logic of that opinion. One may notice a subtext to the selection of readings and the lectures - that of journeys and migrations, both physical and spiritual. Also a consideration of the status of women and gender relations will be a key theme.

Students are expected 1) to gain familiarity with cultures and philosophies different from their own, 2) to comprehend and appreciate those different values their own terms, 3) to critically engage those ideas and values (as well as one’s own values), and thus 4) to hone your skills in assessing sources, analyzing cause and effect, and articulating reasoned arguments orally and in writing.

In addition, the student should gain a knowledge of how change over time occurs, how ideas relate to social, political, and economic structures and institutions, and how the different arenas mentioned above relate and interconnect with each other. One thing that this kind of history course hopefully provides that is different from there other fields in the sciences and humanities is what is referred to in the growing area of Big Data as Domain Awareness. One can have an elegant algorithm or logical syllogism or elaborate and intricate narrative, but without knowing context and what occurs to ideas in the experiential world, one cannot create a useful program for Big Data. Only Domain Awareness allows one to avoid the pitfalls of making a beautiful but useless program.
Class Organization

Students’ grade will be determined by a combination of factors: class attendance and the quality of participation in discussions (20%), two short essays on the readings each 5 pages long (30%), short quizzes on factual content presented in lectures (20%), and a final ten-page essay on a theme of one’s own choosing using the texts read in class to compare Asian and Western perspectives (30%). Students will make short oral presentations of their topics in class in order to test ideas and elicit suggestions for improvements. This will count as part of your class participation grade. During the semester, then, the student’s skills as a researcher and writer will be honed as well as his or her quality of critical thought. Class discussions will develop further the student’s ability to present well-reasoned perspectives, critically but respectfully engage alternate perspectives, and advance new syntheses.

Required Texts

The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna’s Counsel in Time of War (Barbara Stoller MILLER, trans.) ISBN: 0553213652
Great Sanskrit Plays in Modern Translation (P. LAL, trans.) ISBN: 0811200795
WU Ch’eng-en, Monkey: Journey to the West (David KHERDIAN, trans.) ISBN: 1590302583

Other readings will be available electronically.

Optional Reference Texts (on 4-hour reserve at the Marriott Library)

Patricia EBREY, et. al., Pre-Modern East Asia to 1800 (DS511 .E24 2006)
Romila THAPAR, Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300 (DS436.A3 T43 2003)
Romila THAPAR, The Past Before Us: Historical Traditions of Early North India (online access)

Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1 – Aug. 22  Introductions, Themes
              Aug. 24  Background on Hinduism
Week 2 – Aug. 29  Circular v. Linear Time
              Aug. 31  Bhagavad Gita
Week 3 – Sept. 5  Job, Maimonides (excerpts),
              Sept. 7  Freud, “The Ego and the Id”
Week 4 – Sept. 12  Great Sanskrit Plays (“Shakuntala,” “Latter Story of Rama,” “Toy Cart”)
Sept. 14  Aristotle, Poetics

Week 5 – Sept. 19  Quiz / Background on Confucianism, Questions of Piety
Sept. 21  Confucius, The Analects (excerpts)

Week 6 – Sept. 26  Plato, Euthyphro
Sept. 28  Daoism / Dao de jing (excerpts)

Week 7 – Oct. 3  Essay 1 due / Metaphors and Sciences
Oct. 5  Lucretius, The Nature of Things 1, 2, 6

Week 8 – Oct. 10  Fall Break (no class)
Oct. 12  Fall Break (no class)

Week 9 – Oct. 17  Background on Buddhism
Oct. 19  Han Yu, “Memorial on the Bone of Buddha”
“Mulien” / Dante, Inferno (excerpts)

Week 10  Oct. 24  Forms of Religious Syncretism
Oct. 26  Monkey: Journey to the West

Week 11  Oct. 31  Quiz / Continental Influences on the Periphery
Nov. 2  “Tosa Diary”

Week 12  Nov. 7  “Tannisho”
Nov. 9  Spirits in the Material World / “Ugetsu”

Week 13  Nov. 14  Essay 2 due / “Student Yi Climbs the Wall”
Nov. 16  Rising Merchant Societies

Week 14  Nov. 21  “Pearl-Sewn Shirt”
Nov. 23  Thanksgiving Break (no class)

Week 15  Nov. 28  Chaucer v. Donne
Nov. 30  “Love Suicides at Sonezaki,” “Love Suicides at Amijima”

Week 16  Dec. 5  Presentations
Dec. 7  Presentations

Final Essay due  Friday, Dec. 15 by 12 Noon.
Suggested Further Readings

The Rig Veda
The Upanishads
Sources of Indian Tradition (Vol. 1)
Mencius (D.C. Lau, trans.)
Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings (Burton Watson, trans.)
Sources of Chinese Tradition (Vol. 1)
Early Korean Literature (David R. McCann)
The Tale of Genji (Edward Seidensticker, trans.) [abridged version]
Bashô, Narrow Road to the Deep North

Some Relevant videos with call numbers:

Legacy - [V-Cass CB311 L43 1991]
   India: The Empire of the Spirit [Part 2]
   China: The Mandate of Heaven [Part 3]*
The Long Search - [V-Cass BL80.2 L64 1977]
   Hinduism: 330 Million Gods [#2]
   Buddhism: Footprint of the Buddha [#3]
   Taoism: A Question of Balance [#11]
   Zen Buddhism: Land of the Disappearing Buddha” [#9]
Silk Road - [V-Cass DS793.562 S54 1990]
   “Art Gallery in the Desert”*
The Tale of Genji - [V-Cass PL788.4 G43 T3 1993]*
RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services. http://disability.utah.edu

Wellness Statement
Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness - www.wellness.utah.edu 801-581-7776.

Veterans Center
If you are a student veteran, I want you to know that the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center on campus. They are located in Room 161 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.

LGBT Resource Center
If you are a member of the LGBTQ community, I want you to know that my classroom is a safe zone*. Additionally, please know that the U of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 in the Oplin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: http://lgbt.utah.edu/. Please also let me know if there is any additional support you need in this class.

Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language
If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language development and writing. These resources include: the Department of Linguistics ESL Program (http://linguistics.utah.edu/esl-program/); the Writing Center (http://writingcenter.utah.edu/); the Writing Program (http://writing-program.utah.edu/); the English Language Institute (http://continue.utah.edu/eli/). Please let me know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

Academic Conduct
All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook.
Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee. Faculty must strive in the classroom to maintain a climate conducive to thinking and learning. PPM 8-12.3, B. Students have a right to support and assistance from the University in maintaining a climate conducive to thinking and learning. PPM 8-10, II. Please consult the following website for History’s departmental policies on Academic Misconduct. (http://history.utah.edu/misconductpolicy.php) See “Principles for Grading” below for the definition of plagiarism and a discussion of consequences.

**Accommodations Policy**

“Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that may conflict with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience. For more information, please consult the University of Utah’s Accommodations Policy, which appears at: www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf

This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.