

Point Loma Nazarene University
School of Theology & Christian Ministry
Spring 2013

Directed Study for 3 Students

- Course:** Philosophy 351. Asian Philosophies and Religions. Mondays 2:30-3:30.
- Professor:** Dr. Michael Lodahl. Office – Smee Hall 206
Office phone 849-2331, home phone (619) 297-0395, cell (858) 405-3184.
- Texts:** Conze, Edward, translator, *Buddhist Scriptures*
Ivanhoe, Philip and Van Norden, Bryan, eds.,
Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy
Mascaro, Juan, translator, *The Upanishads*
Roberts, Moss, translator, *Dao de Jing*
Stoler Miller, Barbara, translator, *The Bhagavad-Gita*

Catalogue Course Description:

Treatment of the leading ideas and philosophical developments of Asian philosophies and of the religious beliefs and practices of Asian religions.

Objectives:

- 1) To become conversant with the leading convictions and practices of the major indigenous religious and philosophical traditions of India and East Asia.
- 2) To reflect theologically, from the resources of the Christian theological tradition, about the holy texts, convictions, practices and institutions of the adherents of these traditions, both through classroom study and through onsite visits to local worship and/or meditation gatherings.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Students will be able to identify the influential teachers in Hindu, Buddhist, Confucianist and Daoist traditions, and their most important and distinctive ideas;
- 2) Students will be able to describe the relationships between the distinctive ideas and the everyday practices of adherents within the above named traditions; and
- 3) Students will be able to describe and evaluate the dominant models in Christian theology for reflecting upon the existence, and vitality, of the above named traditions.

Requirements:

- 1) Consistent attendance and participation in weekly meetings.
- 2) Careful and disciplined reading of assigned texts for each meeting. This will be determined by the quality of interaction / discussion which the student contributes to directed study meetings.
- 3) Three field trips to local sites of Asian religious practices. The professor will provide possible sites for student visits.
- 4) Reflection / response papers (3-4 pages typewritten) on all field trips. *These will be due within two weeks of the visit.*
- 5) A research / reflection paper (10-12 pages typewritten) in which the student will attempt to theorize on the relationship between Christianity (or any one specific conviction or practice) and another of the religious traditions addressed in this class. The paper's text and bibliography must show evidence of outside research from at least five resources and a minimum of 250 pages of reading from those sources. *Total pages read for paper must be documented on the paper's bibliography page.*
- 6) Two take-home essay exams, to be taken as scheduled on course calendar.

Course Grade: Will be determined on the basis of the scheduled exams (18% each), the research / reflection paper (16%), field trip visits and response papers (12% each), and class attendance / participation (12%).

All assignments will receive a grade based on the scale below:

94-100, A; 90-93, A-; 87-89, B+; 83-86, B; 80-82, B-; 77-79, C+;
73-76, C; 70-72, C-; 67-69, D+; 63-66, D; 60-62, D-; below 60, F.

Please keep in mind that grammar, spelling and punctuation all play a *highly* critical role in your professor's evaluation of all your papers – and that you are *required* to solicit the benefits of at least one competent proofreader for your research paper (and preferably for your onsite visit response papers as well), whose name(s) shall be included on your research paper title page.

Additionally, the School of Theology and Christian Ministry at PLNU is committed to the equality of women and men, including in the exercise of the gifts and graces of ministry in local church congregations. Recognizing that people have often used language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and especially in their writing.

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. This policy assists the university in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act of 1990, and ADA Amendments Act of 2008, all of which prohibit discrimination against students with disabilities and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please consult the school catalog under the heading of Academic Honesty to learn the professor's intended policy regarding student dishonesty regarding academic work.

Course Calendar:

Jan 14 Introduction of ourselves and of the course; selected texts of the Vedas.

Jan 21

ML King, Jr. Day Be reading from *The Upanishads* (Notes on the Translations, 45-46), 49-104

(Good visit possibility, Sunday 1/20 or 1/27: Vedanta Center.)

Jan 28 Upanishads, 105-143

Feb 4 *Buddhist Scriptures* (Introduction, 11-16), 19-97

(Good visit possibility, Sunday 2/10 or 2/17: Buddhist Temple.)

Feb 11 Buddhist Scriptures, 98-180

Feb 18 Buddhist Scriptures, 181-24

Feb 25 *The Bhagavad-Gita* introductory material (ix-xvi, 1-18), 21-87

(Feb 27 or Mar 3: Possible visit of Krisna Consciousness Temple)

Spring Break

Course Calendar, cont'd

Mar 11 Gita, 89-154

Take-home midterm essay examination

Mar 18 *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*
Preface & Introduction (vii-xvii), *Analects* 1-54

Mar 25 Mozi 59-111

Easter Break (Read Mengzi 115-157)

Apr 8 *Dao de Jing: The Book of the Way* Introduction (pp 1-23), stanzas 1-43

Apr 15 Dao de Jing, stanzas 44-81

Apr 22 Zhuangzi 207-250

Apr 29 Xunzi 255-307.

Term research paper due Tuesday, April 30, no later than 5 p.m.

Take-home essay final examination.