

Course Outline

School / Portfolio: Faculty of Education and Arts

Course Title: ASIAN PHILOSOPHIES

Course ID: PHIGL1005

Credit Points: 15.00

Prerequisite(s): Nil

Co-requisite(s): Nil

Exclusion(s): Nil

ASCED Code: 091701

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	✓	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Understand the key concepts, arguments and texts in four of the major traditions in Asian philosophy (Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism).
- K2.** Describe the role played by the different domains of philosophy in different Asian philosophical traditions.
- K3.** Contrast and compare Asian philosophies with Western philosophical methodologies.

Skills:

- S1.** Demonstrate critical textual analysis and exegesis
- S2.** Articulate an informed perspective
- S3.** Analyse, evaluate and critically engage with philosophical positions
- S4.** Undertake independent research to deepen critical understanding of Asian philosophical traditions and texts.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Recognise and reflect on the relations between different philosophical positions and traditions and their cultural contexts.
Articulate and justify a philosophical position in a clear and well-structured manner in verbal or
- A2.** written form, demonstrating familiarity with the conventions and techniques of philosophical scholarship.

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Course Content:

This course is designed to function as an introduction to four of the major traditions in Asian philosophy (Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism), giving students a basic level of cultural literacy in relation to Asian thought which can be used in other academic disciplines. Students will be introduced to the key ideas and philosophical concepts in each of these traditions through readings from both primary and secondary texts. Non-philosophical texts such as poetry, short fiction and visual media may also be used to elucidate philosophical ideas. Examining the domains of metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics, the course explores conceptions of reality, theories of knowledge, systems of ethical relationships and beliefs about human nature, and the role of philosophy in human affairs.

The course also poses important methodological questions in relation to approaching the thought of Asia from a Western perspective, including discussion of the different expectations and ideas connected with the term 'philosophy' in Eastern and Western cultures, and the complex relationships holding between philosophy and religion in both the East and the West.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

- V1.** Develop the capacity to see philosophical problems within their cultural contexts
- V2.** Recognise and respect the variety of perspectives on and critical approaches to philosophical positions
- V3.** Develop a critical awareness of methodological problems associated with the study of other cultures and philosophical traditions.
- V4.** Respect for the philosophical ideals of clarity and coherence, and for the procedures of disciplined philosophical argumentation

Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students will develop skills in comprehension, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creative thinking	High
Self Reliance	Students will build on their skills in continuous learning, personal organisation, communication, independent thinking, initiative, and creativity	Medium
Engaged Citizenship	Students will develop respect for and an informed perspective regarding the conceptual frameworks and traditions of Asian cultures	High
Social Responsibility	Students reflect on issues of differing cultural traditions.	High

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, S1, S2,	Demonstrate understanding of key concepts, arguments and texts in response to short answer questions.	Reading Exercise.	15-25%

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Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, S1, S2, S3, S4, A1, A2	Analysis, research and argument. Draw up an essay plan detailing how a position on a contested philosophical topic can be developed and defended.	Essay Plan	10-20%
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, S4, A1, A2	Analysis, research and argument. Develop and defend a position on a contested philosophical topic by marshalling support, comparing competing viewpoints and drawing conclusions.	Research Essay.	40-50%
K1, K2, S1, S2, S3, S4, A2	Present ideas and arguments pertinent to one course topic.	Presentation.	10-15%
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, A1, A2	Make informed contributions to course activities and discussion; discuss course texts and ideas in a clear and coherent manner.	Participation and Contribution.	5-10%

Adopted Reference Style:

Chicago