

Spring 1-15-2007

ENG 3110-001: Cultural Foundations II

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3110 - 001

English/Philosophy 3110: Cultural Foundations II
Spring 2007

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Office hrs: TR 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
and by appointment

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581-6947 (office),
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Office hrs: TR 11:00 a.m. –
12:00 noon, 3:30 -4:30 p.m.

Goals:

By the end of the course, you should have a deeper understanding of three distinctive non-western cultures: India, China, and the Middle East. Through the study of these cultures' texts and orature, you should get some insight into their religious systems, social organization, and artistic achievements. In the process, you should gain a deeper understanding of your own values and of how they might differ from or be similar to others'.

The course involves intensive reading, writing, and you will get plenty of practice thinking and discussing. Because it is team-taught, it will probably force you at times to consider opposing views or perspectives. The result may be a deeper understanding of how differing disciplines (in this case, English and Philosophy) ask different questions of the same texts and sometimes come to different conclusions about them.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Two 4-5 page papers (15% each) = 30%

Three Exams (20% each) = 60%

Participation in class discussions and preparation of reading assignments = 10%

Text Required:

W.T. Chan. A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy

A.K. Coomaraswamy and Sister Nivedita. Myths of the Hindus and Buddhists

N.J. Dawood. Tales from the Thousand and One Nights

---. The Koran

F. Denny. Islam and the Muslim Community

E. Easwaran. The Bhagavadgita

J. Kritzeck. Anthology of Islamic Literature

S. Radhakrishnan and C. Moore. A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy

W. Rahula. What the Buddha Taught

Lao Tzu. Tao Te Ching

Course Policies:

Discussion (participation) is an important component of this course. Your presence in class is important for everyone, but especially for you. Each unexcused absence will bring your final grade down by 1%. Three late appearances equal one unexcused absence.

Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. For each day that the paper is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an 'A' essay due on Friday will be 'F' by next Thursday. ALWAYS MAKE COPIES AND BACK UP YOUR WORK!

Plagiarism Policy (English Department)

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – “The appropriation or imitation of the language, of ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) – has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Information for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Tentative Syllabus

Segment I: Hinduism

Week 1

1/9 – Introduction to the course
1/11 – Introduction to **Hinduism**

Week 2

1/16 – continued, The Mahabharata from Myths of the Hindus and Buddhists by Coomaraswamy and Nivedita
1/18 – The Mahabharata from Myths of the Hindus and Buddhists by Coomaraswamy and Nivedita

Week 3

1/23 – continued
1/25 – continued

Week 4

1/30 – continued, The Bhagavadgita
2/1 – continued

Week 5

2/6 – continued, Review for Exam 1
2/8 – Exam #1 on Hinduism

Segment II: Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism

Week 6

2/13 – **Buddhist** Teachings and Philosophy from What the Buddha Taught by W. Rahula
2/15 – continued

Week 7

2/20 – continued
2/22 – continued

Week 8

2/27 – continued
3/1 – **Confucianism**, Confucius' Analects from A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy by W.T. Chan

Week 9

3/6 – continued
3/8 – **Taoism**, Selections from Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching and from A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy by W.T. Chan, Essay #1 due at the beginning of the class

Week 10

3/20 – continued
3/22 – Review for Exam 2

Week 11

3/27 – Exam #2 no Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism

Segment III: Islam

3/29 – **Islamic** Tradition from Islam and the Muslim Community by Denny

Week 12

4/3 – continued
4/5 – continued

Week 13

4/10 – The Koran

4/12 – continued and Sufism

Week 14

4/17 – Dawood, Tales from the Thousand and One Nights

4/19 – continued

Week 15

4/24 – continued

4/26 – continued, Review for Exam #3, Essay #2 due at the beginning of the class.

Exam #3 will be held during the Final Exams' Week. This exam covers only the Islamic Segment