

San José State University
Department of Philosophy
PHIL (ASIA/RELS) 104: *Asian Philosophy*, Section 2, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information:

Instructor:	Anthony W. Korsund
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm, or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall (DMH), room 149B
Prerequisites:	Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	This course fulfills the following general education requirement: Area V of SJSU Studies (Culture, Civilization and Global Understanding).
Description:	Philosophical examination of Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and some other significant movements of thought originated in Asia. Comparison with Western philosophy.

Course Description:

This course presents a philosophical examination of some of the central ideas in Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, as well as other significant movements of thought in Asian philosophical traditions. There are three emphases in our examination: (1) we emphasize an appreciation for distinctive ways of thinking and methodological approaches so as to develop a critical and balanced view and to cultivate a capacity for seeing things from a broad and dynamic perspective; (2) we emphasize an appreciation for some representative ideas and perspectives in Asian philosophy and the historical and cultural contexts in which they changed and developed over time when facing internal and external challenges/pressures so as to achieve new visions and perspectives and to expand our understanding of the world and human life; and (3) we take a comparative approach by which those Asian philosophical thoughts will be constructively compared with each other or with some thoughts in Western philosophy so as to appreciate how they can make joint contribution to our understanding and treatment of some philosophically important issues and concerns.

Course Goals:

Goal (1) to develop the ability to enter and appreciate ways of thinking and perspectives that may be quite different from what you have already had; (2) to achieve new understanding and perspectives for dealing philosophically with the important issues and values in the contemporary, multi-cultural world; (3) to enhance understanding of how Asian philosophical traditions bear on Asian-American cultural traditions and American culture and society; and (4) to improve the ability to read and think critically and creatively and to write clearly and effectively.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO):

As an SJSU Studies, GE Area V course, there are three GE Learning Objectives.

GE Learning Objective 1 (GELO 1): *“Students shall be able to compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.”* To achieve this objective, the course takes a comparative approach, as emphasized in Course Goal (2) above. Sample activities for mastering this GELO include a series of comparative examinations of distinct approaches within Asian philosophy and from different (Asian and Western) philosophical traditions.

GE Learning Objective 2 (GELO 2): *“Students shall be able to identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture.”* To achieve this objective, the course pays careful attention to the historical and cultural contexts in which the ideas and perspectives under examination have developed, as indicated in Course Goal (3) above, and discusses how Asian philosophical ideas and visions bear on Western and American philosophy via the aforementioned comparative approach. Sample activities for mastering this GELO include 1) introducing those historical and cultural contexts when examining the Asian philosophical ideas under examination and 2) organizing special in-class discussion forums on how Asian philosophical ideas and visions have influenced Asian-American cultural tradition and American culture and society.

GE Learning Objective 3 (GELO 3): *“Students shall be able to explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.”* To achieve this objective, the course examines how some movements of thought under examination have changed in response to internal and/or external pressures (if any). Sample activities for mastering this GELO include examinations of the development of Confucianism from Confucius to Mencius and Xun Zi’s approaches, development of Buddhism from its early version to some of its more recent movements (such as Chan/Zen Buddhism).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO):

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Develop the ability to enter and appreciate ways of thinking and perspectives that may be quite different from their own.
2. Achieve new perspectives for dealing philosophically with the important issues and values in the contemporary, multi-cultural world.
3. Enhance their understanding of how Asian philosophical traditions bear on Asian-American cultural traditions and American culture and society in general.
4. Improve their ability to read and think critically and creatively and to write clearly and effectively.

Required Textbook:

Asian Philosophies (AP), 6th Edition by John M. Koller. Pearson Publishing.

ISBN-13: 978-0205168989

ISBN-10: 0205168981

Course textbook may be obtained in the SJSU Spartan Bookstore located on campus in the Student Union.

Course Requirements and Assignments:

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Student Responsibilities:

Students are expected to arrive on time, stay for the entirety of class, and complete the assigned readings prior to attending class. Class participation is mandatory. It is crucial that students come to class prepared to discuss issues, as class participation is a significant component of grading and crucial to the process of philosophical inquiry and reasoning. In addition to developing ideas through in-class discussions, students will learn the process of writing a reflective, critically reasoned philosophy paper. This course enables students, in keeping with the general character of philosophy, to reflect on and critically analyze many philosophical topics particular to the Asian traditions presented in class.

Course Structure:

This course will be partly lecture, and partly in-class discussion/activity. It is important that students demonstrate what they are learning from lectures and the readings through thoughtful in-class participation and logical, well-written papers. Accordingly, all students are expected to contribute to in-class discussions and debates. Each student's participation will be evaluated based on the quantity *and* quality of his or her contribution to class debates/activities, and how it reflects both an understanding and a critical assessment of the course material. Students will be asked to do various kinds of work for this course (both in and out of class) with the aim of drawing on the different learning styles and strengths among students to make learning and assessment as fair as possible. Students will be given both marks and comments as feedback on their written work; and, once returned, each assignment will be discussed in class. This is designed to give students both a specific assessment of the work they have completed and enable them to do a self-diagnostic reassessment of their approach to future work in order to further develop critical thinking and writing skills. In total, writing assignments will equal roughly 4000 words, surpassing GE area V minimum requirements for writing.

Participation:

Participation in the form of in-class discussion/debate is crucial to philosophical inquiry, and therefore crucial to a student's success in this course. Students who do not take class discussion seriously will find it difficult to do well in the class. Students can earn 1 to 5 participation points each day of class. Once that class period is past, however, so is the opportunity to earn those participation points. Students will self-evaluate their participation each day, while the instructor will assess whether a student has accurately assessed their participation each week. Students will earn 3 points per class for showing up and having done the reading. Students engaged in active listening will earn 1 additional point. Those who actively share in the class discussion may earn another point, totaling a maximum of 5 points per class. Active class participation may be demonstrated through one or more significant contributions to class discussion—e.g., offering a question of significance (not for

clarification), offering a substantial answer to the instructor's question, sharing an insight about the reading, a summarization or review of key concepts, and/or by volunteering to read out loud for the class's benefit, etc. The instructor may call on those not volunteering to participate, in order to make sure they are earning at least some participation points. It is best to offer your point of view voluntarily in class. So please speak up! Public speaking is a crucial skill in the job market; and the university experience is one of the best opportunities to become better public speakers. Overall, participation is worth 15% of your total course grade.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that "Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading."

Writing Assignments:

During the semester, students will be required to write 3 three-to-four page papers of at least 1200 words in length. Additionally, students will be required to complete 1 in-class writing assignment of approximately one-page in length for the final culminating experience. Later in the semester, handouts will be provided which detail the specific requirements and essay question prompts for each of the paper assignments. The expectation is that each paper assignment will be a thoughtful, critical exploration of the student's views concerning the questions raised by the various readings in class. Each of the 3 paper assignments will count for 25% of the student's total course grade, while the final in-class writing assignment will count for 10%.

Final Culminating Experience:

In place of a final exam, the culminating experience will require students to view a film during the final exam time and write a 1-2 page, critical analysis of the film's content through the lens of course concepts and which demonstrates understanding of the philosophical approaches studied throughout the course.

Grading Information:

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Participation Sheet	15%	May 17th
Paper Assignment #1 (1200 words)	25%	Mar. 1st
Paper Assignment #2 (1200 words)	25%	Apr. 5th
Paper Assignment #3 (1200 words)	25%	May. 10th
In-class Writing (culminating exp.)	10%	May 17th
Culminating Experience (no final exam)	Thursday, May 17th @ 9:45 am - 12:00 noon	

NOTE that "All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades." See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Further Determination of Grades:

- Extra credit options are not available.
- Late work is not accepted.

University Policies:

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

Classroom Protocol/Community Etiquette:

- Be respectful and kind to others.
- Have the courage to speak up.
- No interrupting others while speaking.
- Do the readings before class.
- Be present not only physically, but mentally.
- No web surfing, checking emails, or texting during class.
- No tolerance for intolerance.

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Course Reading Schedule:

Note: The course schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/25	Review Syllabus and Course Expectations
2	1/30	AP: Chapter One – Historical Perspectives of South Asian Phil., pgs. 3 - 10
2	2/1	AP: Chapter One (continued)
3	2/6	AP: Chapter Two – Vedas and Upanishads, pgs. 12 – 23
3	2/8	AP: Chapter Two (continued)
4	2/13	AP: Chapter Three – The Jain Vision, pgs. 24 - 35
4	2/15	AP: Chapter Three (continued)
5	2/20	AP: Chapter Four – Buddhism: The Basic Teachings, pgs. 37 - 51
5	2/22	AP: Chapter Four (continued)
6	2/27	AP: Chapter Five – Interdependent Arising & Mahayana, pgs. 53 – 71
6	3/1	AP: Chapter Five (continued) <i>Paper #1 Due!!!</i>
7	3/6	AP: Chapter Six – Madhyamaka and Yogacara, pgs. 73 - 88
7	3/8	AP: Chapter Six (continued)
8	3/13	AP: Chapter Eight – Self and the World: Sankhya-Yoga, pgs. 98 - 107
8	3/15	AP: Chapter Eight (continued)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9	3/20	AP: Chapter Nine – Knowledge & Reality: Nyaya-Vaisheshika, pgs. 109 - 117
9	3/22	AP: Chapter Nine (continued)
10	3/27	SPRING BREAK
10	3/29	SPRING BREAK
11	4/3	AP: Chapter Fourteen – Historical Overview of East Asian Phil, pgs. 167 – 178
11	4/5	AP: Chapter Fourteen (continued) <i>Paper #2 Due!!!</i>
12	4/10	AP: Chapter Fifteen – <i>Yinyang</i> Philosophy in Book of Changes, pgs. 180 – 195
12	4/12	AP: Chapter Fifteen (continued)
13	4/17	AP: Chapter Sixteen – Confucianism: Thought of Confucius, pgs. 196 – 206
13	4/19	AP: Chapter Sixteen (continued)
14	4/24	AP: Chapter Eighteen – Daoism: The <i>Daodejing</i> , pgs. 217 – 223
14	4/26	AP: Chapter Eighteen (continued)
15	5/1	AP: Chapter Twenty – Chinese Buddhism, pgs. 237 – 247
15	5/3	AP: Chapter Twenty (continued)
16	5/8	AP: Chapter Twenty Three – Japanese Philosophy, pgs. 275 – 296
16	5/10	AP: Chapter Twenty Three (continued) <i>Paper #3 Due!!!</i>
Final Exam	5/17 9:45am-12n	Culminating Experience: In-class Writing Assignment, 1-2 pages