Philosophy 213
Asian Philosophy
Summer 2014
Instructor: Alan Reynolds
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Office: Susan Campbell Hall 161
Class meetings: 10-11:50 M-F; Lillis 175
Office Hours: ** or by appointment

Course Description:
This course will explore some of the main philosophical debates in Asian philosophy, including the ontology of the self, the essence of human nature, and the nature of the good life. We will start and end the course by reflecting on some of the similarities and differences between Eastern and Western ways of thinking.

Course Requirements and Expectations
Two essays: 15% of final grade each = 30% final grade
Final Paper: 30% of final grade
Reading quizzes: 20% of final grade
Participation: 20% of final grade

There will be a short reading quiz every day at the start of class that will be graded pass / no pass. The essays topics will be assigned one week before the due date. Class attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences, or more than five total absences, will result in an automatic drop of two letter grades.

You are expected to come to each class having read all the day’s assigned material carefully. Philosophy texts deal very subtly with very complex issues, so the material should be read more than once in order to fully grasp the ideas. Furthermore, you should come to class prepared to discuss the material. This means that as you read, take note of parts in the text that confuse you, that seem problematic, that need further clarification, etc, and bring them up in discussion.
**Reading Materials:** All readings will be available on Blackboard.

**Course Reading Schedule**

**Week 1**  
Is the self enduring or permanent? What is the ontological nature of selfhood and identity?

M: Discussion: Creation accounts in *The Rig Veda* and *Genesis*  
T: *Bhagavad Gita*  
W: *Bhagavad Gita*  
Th: *The Holy Teaching of Vimalakirti*  

**Week 2**  
Are humans naturally good or evil? How do good and evil arise in human societies?

M: *Mencius*  
T: *Mencius*  
W: *Xunzi*  
Th: *Xunzi*  
F: *Han Feizi*  
*Essay 1 due Friday beginning of class*

**Week 3**  
Is the Way found by adhering to social roles, or breaking away from society and finding one's own natural path?

M: Confucius, *Analects*  
T: Fingarette, *The Secular as Sacred*  
W: Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*  
Th: *Zhuangzi*  
F: *Zhuangzi*  
*Essay 2 due Friday beginning of class*

**Week 4**  
Looking at some ways that Eastern thought has been taken up by Western thinkers.

M: Hesse, *Siddhartha*  
T: Persig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*  
W: Persig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*  
*Final essay due on ***
Grading Rubric
A = 92% or above
A- = 90-92%
B+ = 87-89%
B = 83-86%
B- = 80-82%
C+ = 77-79%
C = 73-76%
C- = 70-72%
D+ = 67-69%
D = 63-66%
D- = 60-62%
F = 59% or below

Essay evaluation rubric
The following rubric reflects the general standards of the Philosophy Department at the University of Oregon:

A = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.
B = good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.
C = OK. Some errors, but a basic grasp of the material.
D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.
F = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or a complete lack of effort.

Disability Accommodation
I am committed to providing fair access to all students. Please submit all disability accommodation requests in compliance with University of Oregon policy. Contact the Disability Office for information.

Academic Honesty
Academic dishonesty will absolutely not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, etc. If you have any questions about what exactly constitutes plagiarism, you must take responsibility. The University Student Conduct Code defines explicitly what is considered student misconduct. Students that fail to meet the expectations of academic honesty will possibly be failed from the class and could face disciplinary action.