Course Description
This course will explore some of the major Asian philosophical traditions. We will read primary and secondary texts from the traditions of Hinduism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism. In each unit, we will address core philosophical questions, including: What is the nature of reality? What is the nature of the self? What is the meaning of human existence? How should we live? Throughout the class we will also reflect on some of the similarities and differences between Western philosophy and Asian philosophy, and the benefits of studying Asian philosophy in conversation with Western philosophy.

Course Requirements and Expectations
- **In-Class Essay Exams:** After each unit there will be an in-class essay exam covering material from the readings, lectures, and discussions. It will include both short and long essay questions.
- **Final Paper/Presentation:** Each student will write a research paper on a topic of her choosing, dealing in some way with the traditions, figures, and problems addressed in class. The paper should be 5-7 pages long (further instructions are on Blackboard). In the final week of class, each student will make a 10 minute presentation explaining the basic arguments of her paper.
- **Participation:** Each student will be evaluated on her participation in the course. The participation grade is earned through active participation in class, both in small group work and large group discussions, and can be supplemented by visiting office hours and engaging in conversations about the texts there.
- **Attendance:** Class attendance is mandatory. After two absences (excused or unexcused), each additional absence will result in an automatic drop of 20% from the student's attendance grade (thus, five additional absences will result in a 0% for attendance, and thus a full letter grade deduction from the overall course grade). Tardiness in excess of five minutes constitutes an absence. Students who miss class are responsible to gather information they missed from their classmates.
- **NOTE:** Electronics are not permitted in class (laptops, cellphones, etc). Use of electronics in class will result in a loss of attendance points for the day (it will count as an absence).

Course Requirements and Grades
In-Class Essay Exams: 15% (X3 = 45%)
Final Paper: 20%
Final Paper Presentation: 5%
Participation: 20%
Attendance: 10%
Required Texts (available at the UO Duck Store)
    1) Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, 2nd ed., Philip Ivanhoe and Bryan Van Norden
    2) Buddhism as Philosophy, Mark Siderits

All other readings will be available on Blackboard, and must be printed out and brought to class.

Course Reading Schedule (subject to revision)

Week 1 - Hinduism
M: “Hymn on Creation” from Rig Vedas (compare with Genesis 1)
T: Vedas (p. 5-36)
W: The Upanisads (p. 37-56, 64-92, 93-96)
Th: The Bhagavad Gita (ch. 2-7)
F: The Bhagavad Gita (ch. 8-18); watch “Religions of the World: Hinduism” in class

Week 2 – Confucianism & Classical Chinese Philosophy
T: Mozi (RCCP: p. 57-90)
W: Mencius (RCCP: p. 115-157)
F: Han Feizi (RCCP: p. 298-323)

Week 3 – Daoism
M: In-Class Essay Exam on Confucianism; Laozi, The Daodejing (RCCP: ch. 1, 4, 14, 16, 21, 25, 30, 32, 34, 35, 40-42)
T: Zhuangzi (RCCP: p. 204-240); watch “The Life of Buddha” BBC Documentary in class

Buddhism
W: Buddhism as Philosophy, “Buddhism as Philosophy?”; recommended: Peter Harvey, “The Buddha and his Indian Context”
F: Buddhism as Philosophy, “Buddhist Ethics”; The Dalai Lama, A Policy of Kindness (ch. 5-6); Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art Tour (focusing on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean artwork)

Week 4
M: In-Class Essay Exam on Daoism and Buddhism; Martha Nussbaum, “The Study of Non-Western Culture”
T: Student presentations
W: Student presentations

*Final paper due Friday, August 15, at noon, in the Philosophy Department office (211 Susan Campbell Hall)
**Course Learning Objectives**
The main objectives of this course are:

- To develop the ability to closely read, interpret, and critically analyze philosophical texts.
- To develop the ability to accurately reconstruct arguments from a text, and pose critical questions and objections to the text in writing.
- To develop the ability to engage in critical self-reflection in light of the philosophical texts that we read and discuss.

**Grading Rubric**
A+ = 97% or above
A = 93-96%
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.