Rel-0811-001-Asian Behavior and Thought

Instructor: Shigenori Nagatomo  
Place: AC7  
Days and times of course meetings: T, R 11:00-12:20  
Dates and times of any special sessions, field trips: No special sessions and field trips.  
Office address: Anderson 626  
Instructor's office telephone: 215-204-1749  
Instructor's e-mail address and website: snagatom@temple.edu; http://astro.temple.edu/~snagatom.  
Guidelines about contacting the instructor: I will try to respond to your email in a timely manner if you have any serious question and concern about the course; however, I encourage you to talk to me before and after the class, and/or during my office hours.  
Instructor's office hours: T, R 12:30 – 1:00, or by appointment, Anderson 626  
Prerequisites, co-requisites, or any special skills: No prerequisites are required.  
Disability Statement: This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.  
Course Description:  
This course is designed to introduce students to basically four Asian paradigms of thinking by examining three cardinal concepts of self, nature, and society as they have traditionally been developed in Asia. Thematization of these concepts in the context of globalization is significant, because three-fifths of the world’s population currently reside in Asia, and hence an understanding of Asia in these respects is indispensable for becoming a full-fledged person in a global society in the twenty-first century, where the world is constantly “shrinking” due to various scientific technologies such as the internet, jet plane, cell phone, etc. This shrinkage is taking place, however, without consideration for “the logic of passion” that lies behind scientific technology along with attendant economic/commercial activities.  
In particular, the course will examine the concepts of self, nature, and society as they are articulated in the philosophy/religion of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism, i.e. the four representative conceptual paradigms of holistic non-dualism. A study of these philosophical/religious traditions will provide students with four alternative ways of understanding one’s own self, interpersonal relationships with others, and an intra-ecological relationship with nature. These concepts are topicalized in this course for students to learn 1) that there are ways of achieving a deeper understanding of self, 2) that one can develop awareness of co-habiting with nature both individually and collectively, and 3) that there are ways of avoiding various kinds of anxiety. Common to these three objectives is an overarching goal of enabling students to see themselves and issues they face in life by learning to assume a holistic, non-dualistic paradigm of thinking. When this is compared with the dominant Western paradigm of thinking (e.g. dualistic, either-or ego-logical), students will notice a marked difference, and hence the course will provide them with opportunities to deepen their understanding of themselves, their interpersonal relationship with others, and an intra-ecological relationship with nature.  
Methodological Orientation:  
The methodological orientation of the course will assume a philosophical/textual standpoint, by allowing students to experience a close reading of appropriate texts which address the above concepts with a view to developing their analytic as well as synthetic skills in appropriating an understanding of the Asian paradigm. (A depth-psychological approach should also be considered in conjunction with the above method, because it
can address issues dealing with unconscious complexes and meditational experiences. This aspect is important for all these conceptual paradigms emphasize an importance of self-cultivation via meditation.)

Course Structure:
The course will be conducted by delivering two lectures a week, and after every four lectures or so, it will hold a discussion/recitation session, if this is necessary. It can be given in a format of either a small class or a large class.

Course Policies:
• Attendance will be taken at all classes.
• A late arrival or early departure will be marked as equivalent to 1/3 of missing a class.
• If you miss five classes you will face a 10% reduction of your total, accumulated points.
• A late paper will automatically entail a 10% reduction of its original value.
• A make-up exam will not be given unless the student can provide proof of a medical condition or written proof verifying family emergency.
• Bring the textbook to class.
• You are expected to attend all classes fully prepared: complete the reading assignment for each class with written notes, and be ready to raise specific questions and discuss points about the assigned reading.
• For help 1) with writing, make use of the Writing Center; 2) with personal confidence, go to Counseling Center (Sullivan Hall); and 3) with complaints (fairness, grading, etc), see the TA or the instructor.
• No incompletes are likely to be given for this course. So, try to finish the course by the end of the semester.

N.B. If you miss an exam without a valid excuse (illness, family emergency), you will receive a zero for this exam. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of your absence BEFORE the scheduled test.

Tentative Exam Dates and Paper Due Dates:
| 1st Exam | March 3rd | 1st Response paper | March 17 |
| 2nd Exam | to be announced | 2nd Response paper | April 13 |

N.B: these requirements are tentative, and are subject to change. We may have three exams instead, without two response papers.

Assessment:
The course will assess an individual student’s mastery of the materials via the following five points (each category is given a numerical value in terms of percentage assigned to it):

1) regular attendance (5 %)
2) participation in discussions (5 %)
3) two midterm exams (30 x2 = 60 %)
4) two 2 page response papers (15x2=30 %)

• The examinations are designed to test how well the student has acquired terminologies necessary to understand each of the three concepts, and how well he/she can coherently structure his/her understanding by analytically and synthetically weaving these terminologies.
• In recitation/discussion session, an accuracy of grasping terminologies used for articulating the above mentioned concepts will be checked, while training students to articulate clearly their thought and feeling.
Grading Policy:
The final grade will be determined by the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 – 93</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>92 – 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89 – 87</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>86 – 83</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>79 – 77</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>66 – 63</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Exams will be 100 minutes (one class period) in length and will consist of three to four parts: Part I is given in true-false format; Part II in sentence completion with a word bank; Part III in sentence completion without a word bank; and Part IV will consist of short answer questions. More detailed information will be provided in advance of each test. There will be two tests during the course of the semester.

The Final Examination will be 2 hours in length and will consist of the same kinds of activities and tasks represented on the test. More information will be provided before the end of the semester.

Policy on Religious Holidays: If you will be observing any religious holidays this semester which will prevent you from attending a regularly scheduled class or interfere with fulfilling any course requirement, your instructor will offer you an opportunity to make up the class or course requirement if you make arrangements by informing your instructor of the dates of your religious holidays within two weeks following the beginning of the semester (or three days before any holidays which fall within the first two weeks of class).

Policy on Cell Phones: Cell phones, pagers and beepers must be turned off during class except with special permission from your instructor.

Attendance Policy: As you can see from the Class Participation and Course Grading Formulas, attendance is very important to your success in this class. You will be excused for 3 absences in the course grading process, but no more. For every 3 absences beyond the first three absences, your course grade will be lowered by one letter grade (e.g., from B- to C+). Students with an emergency (e.g., death in the family, illness, automobile accident) may have an excused absence, but if such absences amount to more than 20% of class hours for the semester, students should consider the possibility of withdrawal from the class.

Policy on Academic Honesty:
Temple University believes strongly in academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism and academic cheating are, therefore, prohibited. Essential to intellectual growth is the development of independent thought and a respect for the thoughts of others. The prohibition against plagiarism and cheating is intended to foster this independence and respect.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, another person's assistance. Normally, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. It is the instructor's responsibility to indicate the appropriate manner of citation. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism.

Academic cheating is, generally, the thwarting or breaking of the general rules of academic work or the specific rules of the individual courses. It includes falsifying data; submitting, without the instructor's approval, work in one course which was done for another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own or another's work; or actually doing the work of another person.
Students must assume that all graded assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise noted in writing in this syllabus. I reserve the right to refer any cases of suspected plagiarism or cheating to the University Disciplinary Committee; I also reserve the right to assign a grade of "F" for the given paper, quiz or test.

Required Text (Can be purchased at Zavell’s):


Supplementary Texts:


Tentative Schedule:

**Hinduism**

- Jan. 18: Introduction
- 20: Chap. 3
- 25: Chap. 3
- 27: Chap. 4

- Feb. 1: Chap. 4
- 3: Chap. 5
- 8: Chap. 5
- 10: Review
- 15: Chap. 6
- 17: Chap. 6

**Buddhism**

- 22: Chap. 7
- 24: Chap. 7

**Mar.**

- 1: Review
- 3: 1st Exam
- Spring Recess
- 15: Chap. 8
- 17: Chap. 8
- 22: Chap. 8
- 24: Chap. 9
- 29: Chap. 9
- 31: Review

**April**

- 5: Chap. 11

**Daoism & Confucianism**

- 7: Chap. 11
- 15: Chap. 12

**Shintoism**

- 12: Chap. 12
N.B.: The following may change depending on how well the class is learning the assigned material.

- Discussion and Review session.
- Videos may not be shown.