

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Philosophy 142: History of Asian Philosophy
Fall 2015

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dennis Arjo

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TR 11:30-12:30

COURSE INFORMATION

Credit Hours – 3

Prerequisites and/or Corequisitesv– none

Supplies – none

Required Texts

- *Philosophic Classic Volume VI: Asian Philosophy*
- Forrest E. Baird and Raeburne S. Heimbeck (eds.)

Description

This course provides a thorough exploration of the philosophical traditions of Asia with a focus on the classical philosophies of India and China. Covered are the origins of Indian philosophy in the Vedas and Upanishads, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism. The course also explores the lasting influence of Asian philosophy outside of both India and China including its increasing relevance in the West

Objectives

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the social and material conditions of ancient Indian and Chinese cultures that provided the context for the prevailing philosophical ideas of the period.
2. Identify, describe, and explain the important philosophical positions of the major schools of classical Indian and Chinese philosophy.

3. Display the ability to relate philosophical ideas from diverse traditions to ongoing philosophical controversies about the nature of the mind, knowledge and the good life.
4. Display the ability to write expository and evaluative essays in a focused, informed, coherent, and thorough manner.
5. Demonstrate the ability to read and interpret complex material.

Note: If you are a student with a disability and if you will be requesting accommodations it is your responsibility to contact Special Services, Room 309 Commons. Special Services will recommend any appropriate accommodations to your instructor and his director. The instructor and director will identify for you which accommodations will be arranged.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings

Assigned readings will form the basis of lectures and class discussion. Though much of it may be difficult, it is important that the readings be done before class, and that you read carefully and critically.

Lectures/Discussions

Classes will be devoted to the interpretation and discussion of the readings. More than any other academic discipline, philosophy is about openly engaging ideas, as opposed to the transmission of a body of doctrine or facts. What matters is the ability to perceive and appreciate philosophical problems, and the ability to analyze and offer attempts to address them. Consequently, neither the readings or lectures and discussions will suffice on their own, and material for exams and paper topics will be drawn from both.

D2L:

D2L: There is a D2L site that is associated with this class. It has an email system and bulletin board features that will be activated and that you are free to use, and I will post assignments there as they are given as well as any handouts. You will also turn in your papers through D2L and your grades will be available there as well. To access the site, go to <https://dl.jccc.edu/default.asp> and logon using your MyJCCC username and password.

Exams and Assignments

There will be five exams, all of which will emphasize writing and critical thinking. I will drop the lowest of your exam scores. Additionally, there will be two short papers that will allow for a more extended treatment of specific issues covered in class. There will be a total of fifteen weekly assignments addressed to the reading, such as brief summaries and study questions. In order to receive credit, these assignments must be directed towards the appropriate readings, and must be written in your own words. *Extremely close paraphrasing or copying passages from the book is plagiarism and is not acceptable.*

Grading

Grades will be determined as follows. Each exam will be worth 40 points, the paper 30 points each, and the weekly assignments 5 points each. The weekly assignment will be graded on accuracy and thoroughness, and must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due or earlier to receive full credit. There will also be 5 points for participation. How many of these you receive will be determined by how often you attend class, participate in discussions and turn in assignments on time.

Final grades will then be determined by the following scale:

- A – 90% - 100%
- B – 80% - 89%
- C – 70% - 79%
- D – 60% - 69%
- F – Below 60%

This will be adjusted if necessary.

Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial and expected. Allowances will be made as much as possible for legitimate absences such as illness. Too many absences, even if excused, will invariably affect grades in an undesirable manner, and in any case make taking the class rather pointless.

Makeups and Late Work

Exams can be made up if arrangements are made with the professor *before the day of the exam*. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 2 points per day. Weekly assignments must be turned by the beginning of class the day they are due. Late weekly assignments will be accepted for *a week after they are due* and will receive a maximum of 3 points.

Cheating

Things speak for themselves. *At minimum*, anyone cheating will receive a 0 on the assignment with no chance of rewriting or otherwise making up the assignment. Depending on the circumstances academic dishonesty may also result in the student failing the class and/or the matter being referred to the administration, which could result in expulsion. Consistent with college policy, any work turned in may be checked electronically for unoriginal work that has not been properly cited.