

Indian Philosophy: An Introduction to Buddhist Thought
PHIL 2P13
Brock University, Winter 2014
Professor Michael P. Berman

Seminar: Tuesday, 5-8pm
Place: TH 243
Phone: 905.688.5550 ext. 3317

Email: mberman@BrockU.CA
Office Hours: Wed., 10:00-11:30am
Office: 573 Glenridge, Room 273

Texts:

- W. Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught* (ISBN: 0-8021-3031-3).
- D. T. Suzuki, *Zen Buddhism* (ISBN: 978-0-385-48349-0).
- Online at Sakai: Nagarjuna, *The Precious Garland*.
- Online at Sakai: Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*.
- Online at Sakai: Confucius, *Confucian Analects*.

Requirements

ONE

There are assigned readings for each lecture. Keep up with the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class.

TWO

Over the course of the fall session there are **two (2) major kinds of written assignments** due:

- A. Pop Quizzes: There will be between two (2) to four (4) surprise quizzes given in lecture over the course of the term. These will be closed book mini-essays based on a question that the instructor will provide in class. Quizzes will not take more than 10 minutes. Make-up quizzes will only be allowed with appropriate medical or personal documentation for missing the evening's lecture.
- B. Document Based Question: Please adhere to the following instructions:
1. You must incorporate the quotations (which will be provided in the posted assignment on Sakai) into your essay.
 2. You may use only one additional quote from the text in your essay.
 3. Be sure to use the proper citation method (footnotes or endnotes only; **DO NOT USE IN-TEXT CITATIONS**).
 4. Your essay must be **1000-1200 words** in length, typed and double-spaced (with one inch margins). Remember: italics are only to be used for non-English words.
 5. Please use inclusive, non-sexist language in your essays; for example, use words like humanity, human beings, people, persons, etc.
 6. Do not write in the first person. In other words, do not use the word "I" anywhere in your essay to refer to yourself; for example, you should ***never*** have a sentence that begins, "I believe that..." or "I think that..."

7. Answer the questions assigned with a cohesive thesis. Be sure to thoroughly explain and justify your ideas and reasoning.
8. You do not need to use a cover sheet (save the paper).
9. You must include your name and your essay's word count on the paper.
10. Remember to submit the paper to www.turnitin.com, and then attach the receipt or proof of submission to the hardcopy of your paper.
11. The hardcopy submission for DBQ #1 is due at February 11, 2013, 5:00pm in lecture; DBQ #2 is due April 15, 2013, at 12noon in Prof. Berman's office (GLN 273).

Some notes on paper style, format, and writing:

Any time you quote directly from a book or text, you must cite the quote properly. You must use either footnotes or endnotes. (It is recommended that you follow the Chicago MLA style so that your papers are in the proper format!)

As a rule of thumb, any time you quote from a source, you should provide an explanation of that quote in your own words, showing why it is relevant to your DBQ's thesis. Your explanation should be as long, if not longer than the quote itself.

Papers must be **typed and double-spaced**.

All papers must be **submitted to Turnitin.com**; please attach proof of submission to your hardcopy of the essay. This should be with your essay when handed in to the professor. The information for the class is as follows: the course name is "Indian Philosophy: An Introduction to Buddhist Thought"; the course number is **7355644**; and the enrollment password is "**nirvana**".

Late papers will be penalized 5% per day; however, due date extensions might be granted, if requested in a timely fashion. Late papers may not receive any comments other than a grade.

Plagiarism is expressly forbidden by the rules of Brock University. If you hand in a plagiarized DBQ, the Dean's Office may be informed, and it may result in a failing course grade. Please refer to the following webpages:

- In the Faculty Handbook, section III, part #15. Academic Misconduct at <http://www.brocku.ca/secretariat/facultyhandbook/section3.php#_genIndex95>.
- Code of Student Academic Conduct at <<http://www.brocku.ca/academicintegrity/policy>>.

THREE

During the evening lectures, the use of electronic devices (laptops, phones, recording devices, etc.) is strictly prohibited without explicit consent from the course professor (see immediately below). Please turn off or place on silent mode all such devices.

Accommodations: As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the University Community with disabilities. If you require accommodations related to a permanent disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact the Student Development Centre Services for Students with Disabilities (4th Floor, Schmon Tower, ext. 3240) and also discuss these accommodation(s) with the professor.

Please note: the use of laptop computers, cell phones, and any other electronic devices are banned during lecture; they are simply distractions. Only legitimated educational needs will supercede this requirement.

FOUR

Class participation is expected and mandatory. Some of the material that we will cover during the course will be new and unfamiliar. Ask questions and express your ideas. All views are welcomed and encouraged. Communication, both written and oral, is a key goal of the course. Discussion and dialogue are important ingredients for all classes, especially in philosophy courses.

Grading

Grading for each student will be a combination of the following scores over the course of the semester:

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DBQ #1	35%
DBQ #2	45%
Pop Quizzes	20%
TOTAL	100%

Syllabus: Winter 2014

Week	Readings and Assignments*
1/7	<i>What the Buddha Taught</i> , ch. 1-2
1/14	<i>What the Buddha Taught</i> , ch. 3-4
1/21	<i>What the Buddha Taught</i> , ch. 5-6
1/28	<i>What the Buddha Taught</i> , ch. 7-8
2/4	<i>The Precious Garland</i> , pg. 1-34
2/11	<i>The Precious Garland</i> , pg. 35-68; DBQ #1 Due
<u>2/18</u>	<u>Reading Week (no classes)</u>
2/25	<i>Confucian Analects, Tao Te Ching, Zen Buddhism</i> ch. 1; overview of Chinese Philosophy
3/4	<i>Zen Buddhism</i> , ch. 2-3
3/11	<i>Zen Buddhism</i> , ch. 4-5
3/18	<i>Zen Buddhism</i> , ch. 6-7
3/25	<i>Zen Buddhism</i> , ch. 8-9
4/1	<i>Zen Buddhism</i> , ch. 10
4/15	DBQ #2 Due

* The due dates for the assignments are subject to revision, if circumstances require such.