

Eastern Philosophy (EPIL) Course Syllabus

Day	Session	Ends	Means
Day 1 (Introduction/ Hinduism)	Morning	Introduce philosophy as a quest for self-knowledge Help students reflect on their own preconceptions	Warm-up Meditation Exercise; Pre-Assessment; 5-min. Write: "Who Am I?"; Group Exercise: "Identifying Prejudices, Stereotypes, etc."
	Afternoon	Arrive at an operative definition of philosophy; Determine meaning of "East" and "West" Introduce Basic Hindu Concepts	Lecture: "What is Eastern Philosophy? Western Philosophy?"; Reading/Discussion: "The Sorrow of Arjuna," Bhagavad Gita
	Evening	Extract arguments from a text	Selections from the Bhagavad Gita;bring questions to class
Day 2 (Hinduism)	Morning	Have students answer each others questions, stimulate discussions; Give students examples of the concept of yoga in everyday life	Group Exercise: "Reading Questions"; Lecture: "The Concept of Yoga"; Group Exercise: "The Yoga We Do Everyday"
	Afternoon	Highlight the major problems in Hindu thought Review the historical/cultural context of Hinduism	Lecture: "The Paradox of Enlightenment" In-class Reading: Kupperman, Chapter 1
	Evening	Extract arguments form a text	Selections from the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> (cont.) and reading questions
Day 3 (Hinduism)	Morning	Continue probing the ethical complexities of Arjuna's Dilemma; Illustrate the key concept of karma	Lecture: "Ethics and Enlightenment"; Group Exercise: "What is My Karma?"; In-class Reading Kupperman, Chapter 2
	Afternoon	Aid students in articulating their own position on Hindu claims	Lecture: "Pleasure, Pain, and Joy"; Group Exercise: "Work and Play, Karma and Lila"
	Evening	Continue exploring concepts of karma and yoga	Reading and Discussion: Smith, 26-41
Day 4 (Hinduism)	Morning	Give students a chance to present and evaluate basic Hindu claims and arguments	Introduce Position Paper; planning session; Computer Lab: Write 2-page Paper on Hinduism
	Afternoon	Provoke an informal debate about the merits and demerits of religious pluaralism (vs. exclusivism)	Lecture: "Religious Pluralism"; Reading: Smith, 72-5, 50-59
	Evening	Give students a visual presentation of the concepts learned	Film and Discussion: "Hinduism and Buddhism"

Day	Session	Ends	Means
Day 5 (Buddhism)	Morning	Introduce background of Buddhism; pinpoint the differences between philosophy and religion	5-min. Write: "Who Am I?"; Lecture: "The Story of the Buddha"; Contrast w/ Hinduism, Smith 92-103; Discussion: "What is Religion?"
	Afternoon	Engage a practical instance of Hindu philosophy	Introduction to Ashtanga Yoga by Guest Instructor
(Sunday)	Evening	Have students present textual material before their peers	Reading and Outline: Smith 103-119; Partner Presentations for Monday
Day 6 (Buddhism)	Morning	Introduce major sects of Buddhism; Broach Buddhist metaphysics and logic	Lecture: "The Three Vehicles of Buddhism"; Reading: Smith 119-139; Discuss Buddhist Metaphysics and Co-dependent Arising
	Afternoon	Highlight major problems in Buddhist philosophy	Lecture: "The Bodhisattva, Samsara, Nirvana" Reading: Smith 139-147
	Evening	Extract arguments from a text	Reading and Discussion: Kupperman, Chapter 3
Day 7 (Buddhism)	Morning	Introduce philosophical skepticism and the hard problem of consciousness	Lecture: "The Two Truths Doctrine: Is Buddhism a Skepticism?"; Reading and Quiz: Dalai Lama, "The Question of Consciousness"
	Afternoon	Probe the relationship between science and religion/spirituality	Reading: Dalia Lama, "Toward a Science of Consciousness"; Discuss Materialism
	Evening	Sample a visual comparison of several traditions	Film: "A Separate Peace: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Shintoism";
Day 8 (Buddhism/Zen)	Morning	Give students a chance to present and evaluate basic Buddhist claims and arguments	Announce Group Project Groups; Explain Position Paper; Computer Lab: 2 Page Position Paper on Buddhist Ethics and Reincarnation
	Afternoon	Introduce Zen, koans, and illogic; sample a traditional meditative practice;	Lecture: "Zen: Pure Buddhism, American Buddhism"; Reading: Selections from <i>Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind</i> ; Walking Meditation Exercise
	Evening	Help students see how story, parable, and humor function in Zen Buddhism	Reading and Discussion: Kupperman, "Zen Flesh, Zen Bones"

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Day 9 (Taoism)	Morning	Introduce Taoism; Stimulate critical reading through quiz exercise; provide historical/cultural background;	Free-write: "Who Am I?"; Lecture: "Taoism in a Nutshell"; Reading and Quiz: Smith, "Taoism" 196-219; Group Discussion: "Opposites" Lecture: "Taoism in Chinese Culture"
	Afternoon	Highlight the role of art/poetry in Zen and Taoism	Lecture: "Art as Spiritual Expression in Zen and Taoism"; Painting Exercise; Reading: Selections from the <i>Tao Te Ching</i>
	Evening	Extract arguments from a text	Reading and Discussion: Kupperman, <i>Tao Te Ching</i> ; Brainstorm Group Projects and Final Papers
Day 10 (Taoism)	Morning	Introduce Zhuang Zi	Lecture: Zhuang Zi; Group Exercise: Quotations from Zhuang Zi; Reading and Discussion: Kupperman, "Zhuang Zi"; Comp. Lab: Resarch
	Afternoon	Sample Taoist yoga, and connection to Taoist philosophy of nature	Tai Chi Lesson Outside
(Sunday)	Evening	Extract arguments from a text	Reading: Kupperman, "Confucius"; Group Projects; Paper Brainstorming/Outlining
Day 11 (Confucianism)	Morning	Biographical/historical backgroun of Confucius Introduce distinctions in philosophy of law	Film: "Words of Wisdom: Confucius"; Lecture and Discussion: "Law and Custom in Confucius"; Reading: Smith, "Confucius" 154-172
	Afternoon	Drive students to see how tradition operates in their own life	Film: "The Confucian Tradition: Part 1"; Lecture: "Deliberate and Spontaneous Tradition"
	Evening	Have students synthesize major threads throughout course in a longer paper	Computer Lab: begin final papers
Day 12 (Confucianism)	Morning	Introduce Mencius; Show students how integral poetry was in Ancient Chinese culture	Lecture: "Mencius and Human Nature"; Film: "The Confucian Tradition: Part 2"; Reading: Kupperman, "Mencius"
	Afternoon		Computer Lab: continue final papers
	Evening	Extract arguments from a text	Reading: Smith, "Confucianism" 172-194; continue Group Projects

Day	Session	Ends	Means
Day 13 (Group Projects)	Morning	Give a summary of the course, and re-raise the question of the East/West encounter	Film: "The Confucian Tradition: Parts 2-3" Reading: Kupperman, "Classic Asian Philosophies as Guides to Life"; Lecture, "Beyond East/West?"
	Afternoon	Have students work together to present material creatively	Complete Work on Group Projects
	Evening	Have students teach the Western philosophy class what they learned throughout the course	Group Presentations to Western Philosophy Class
Day 14 (Final Papers/ Review)	Morning		Computer Lab: Finish Final Papers; Post-Assessment; SPE's
	Afternoon		Film: "The Truman Show"
Day 15 (Philosophy as a Way of Life)			Concluding Lecture; Finish "The Truman Show"