

**WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE**  
**LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION**  
**GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE**

PHI Course Prefix	160 Course Number	Non-Western Philosophy Course Title	3-0 (Lec-Lab)	3 Semester Hours
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Introduces selected philosophical concepts and value systems of several non-Western cultures. Gives attention to the Bhagavad Gita, Vedanta and other Hindu texts, Confucius, the Tao Te Ching and other Chinese classics and key texts from at least two other traditions. IAI H4 903N

**TOPICAL OUTLINE**

- I. Indian Philosophy
  - A. The Upanishads
  - B. The Bhagavad Gita
  - C. The Vedanta
- II. Chinese Philosophy
  - A. Confucius' Analects
  - B. The Great Learning
  - C. The Doctrine of the Mean
  - D. The Tao Te Ching
  - E. Chu His
- III. Japanese Philosophy
  - A. Dogen
  - B. Shinran
  - C. Masao Abe

**METHODS OF PRESENTATION**

- 1. Lecture
- 2. Discussion
- 3. Film, video and other media
- 4. Guest lecturers, as appropriate
- 5. Student presentations

**STUDENT OUTCOMES:** (*The student should . . .*)

- 1. explain the major philosophical theories studied in the class, including, where applicable, their ideas on:
  - a. the acquisition of philosophical knowledge or insight
  - b. the experiential matrix of philosophical concepts
  - c. the limits of philosophy
  - d. the nature of the phenomenal world
  - e. time
  - f. selfhood
  - g. the nature of the transcendent
  - h. ethical or personal-social implications
  - i. the appropriate language in which to express philosophical knowledge or insights
- 2. discuss how philosophy is related to religion, science, literature.
- 3. formulate generalizations concerning how a philosophy relates to its tradition.
- 4. select and expound key passages from primary sources and be able to discuss major issues in translation.
- 5. formulate generalizations concerning cultures (e.g. Hindu, Chinese)
- 6. formulate cross-cultural comparisons.

7. discuss potential errors in the generalizations in Numbers 5 and 6, including how specific philosophers or texts diverge from these generalizations.
8. explain three theories concerning the possibility of cross-cultural comparisons.
9. discuss the problems of ethnocentrism and relativism.
10. formulate a personal theory of cross-cultural comparison 11 and formulate a personal philosophy concerning the topics in number one.
11. write at least ten pages (of approximately 300 words each) of college-level writing in the process of demonstrating the accomplishment of the other outcomes.

#### METHODS OF EVALUATION

1. Exams
2. Papers
3. Class presentations

#### TEXTBOOKS/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Chan, *Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*, Princeton University Press

Radhakrishnan, *Source Book in Indian Philosophy*, Princeton University Press

or a selection of primary texts

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Semester Fall Year 2015