

SPRING 2006

MYSTICAL PHILOSOPHY (PHIL 290)

TIME: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 12:50-2:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: SHALAHUDIN KAFRAWI

CONTENT:

The course highlights a non-discursive genre of philosophy that emphasizes on the unity of Being. It covers the following themes: the ontological ground for the unity of Being, unity and multiplicity, gnosis and episteme, the notions of origin and return, theory and praxis, and states and stations in various traditions. Attention is especially given to the monistic view of Plotinus, Meister Eckhart, Ibn Sina, Sankara, and Lao Tzu.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, students are expected to achieve the following objectives:

1. to discuss the characteristics of mystical philosophy;
2. to explore the use of mystical perspective in the global-multicultural society;
3. to explain the ontological basis for unity among various peoples;
4. to discuss philosophical thoughts of major mystical philosophers.

GRADING FORMAT:

1. Participation (25%);
2. One structured paper (2-4 pages each; 20%);
3. Research paper (8-15 pages; total of 30%): research proposal (5%) and first draft (5%) of the paper are required prior to final submission (20%);
4. Presentation (25%);
5. A 5% will be added to the total for those who have a complete attendance;

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students are required to honor academic integrity. The course imposes the application of Moravian College's Academic Honesty Policy. The policy is to be found at Moravian College's *Student Handbook: 2004-2005*, pp. 52-8.

PARTICIPATION:

Students' participation is highly valued. Active participation includes any input that enables the achievement of the course objectives. It includes—but not limited to—making comments about the reading, asking questions about the reading or the themes under discussion, answering questions posed by the instructor or the class, and suggesting alternative views on the issues in class discussion. Attending a lecture(s) on philosophy or religion, whenever applicable, can be counted toward increasing the participation grade.

Complete attendance without any form of participation indicated above will give students a participation grade of no more than D.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings for this course. An extra credit of 5% will be awarded to those who have complete attendance. Students have the liberty to miss four classes without penalty. Those who miss more than four classes will be downgraded by one point of the total grade for each missed meeting after the four absences, unless they provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing and submit a substituted assignment.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS:

All papers—including (1) structured paper, (2) research proposal, (3) draft of research paper and (4) final research paper—should be electronically submitted through Blackboard on or before the indicated dates. If for some reason there is a problem with electronic submission, the printed copy of the paper should be submitted to the instructor's office on the same day. Late submissions will be downgraded for that specific assignment by one point per day. Students are encouraged to rewrite the structured papers. Final research papers cannot be rewritten. The rewritten papers are due within a week after the papers are electronically distributed. Since the grades of the rewritten papers can be better or worse than the originally submitted papers, the best grades will be counted toward the final.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Phone: (610) 861-1628
E-mail: skafrawi@moravian.edu
Classroom: Comenius 411
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM; or by appointment.

READINGS

REQUIRED AVAILABLE AT MORAVIAN'S BOOKSTORE:

Wei, Henry. *The Guiding Light of Lao Tzu: A New Translation and Commentary on the Tao Teh Ching*. Wheaton: The Theosophical Publishing House, 1982.
Eckhart, Meister (trans. Reiner Schurmann). *Wandering Joy: Meister Eckhart's Mystical Philosophy*. Herndon: SteinerBooks, 2001.
Acharya, Sankara. *A Thousand Teachings: The Upadesahasri of Sankara*. Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press, 1992.

SUPPLEMENTAL AVAILABLE AT REEVES' LIBRARY RESERVES:

Avicenna. *Remarks and Admonitions*. In Shams Inati. *Ibn Sina and Mysticism: Remarks and Admonitions*. London: Kegan Paul International, 1996.
Corbin, Henry. "The Recital of the Bird." In *Avicenna and the Visionary Recital*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1960. Pp. 165-203.
Deck, John N. *Nature, Contemplation and the One: A Study in the Philosophy of Plotinus*. New York: Larson Publication, 1991. Pp. 23-73.

- Morewedge, Parviz. *The Mystical Philosophy of Avicenna*. Binghamton: Global Publications, 2001. Pp. 57-116.
- Plato. *Symposium*. In *The Collected Dialogues of Plato: Including the Letters*. Ed. Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989. Pp. 553-74.
- Plotinus. *Enneads*. Trans. Stephen MacKenna. New York: Larson Publications, 1992. III.1-3 (173-209), III.5 (215-26), III.8 (273-87), IV.1-3 (292-331), V.1 (423-35), and V.4-5 (460-76).
- Zaehner, R.C. *Mysticism: Sacred and Profane: Sacred and Profane*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1961. Pp. 153-97

SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic and Reading	Due Date
1.	01/17	Introduction: Syllabus	
2.	01/19	Ontology and Typology of Mysticism [Readings: Plato, <i>Symposium</i> , 553-74 and Zaehner, <i>Mysticism: Sacred and Profane</i> , 153-74.]	
3.	01/24	Plotinus 1 [Reading: Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i> , III.1-3, pp. 173-209.]	
4.	01/26	Plotinus 2 [Reading: Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i> , III.5, pp. 215-26 and III.8, pp. 273-87.]	
5.	01/31	Plotinus 3 [Reading: Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i> , V.1, pp. 423-35 and V.4-5, pp. 460-76.]	
6.	02/02	Plotinus 4 [Reading: Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i> , IV.1-3, pp. 292-331.]	
7.	02/07	Plotinus 5 [Reading: Deck, <i>Nature, Contemplation, and the One</i> , 23-73.]	
8.	02/09	Avicenna 1 [Reading: Avicenna, <i>Remarks and Admonitions</i> , 67-80.]	
9.	02/14	Avicenna 2 [Reading: Avicenna, <i>Remarks and Admonitions</i> , 81-91.]	Research proposal
10.	02/16	Avicenna 3 [Reading: Avicenna, <i>Remarks and Admonitions</i> , 92-108.]	
11.	02/21	Avicenna 4 [Reading: Corbin, "The Recital of the Bird," 165-203.]	Structured paper
12.	02/23	Avicenna 5 [Reading: Morewedge, <i>Mystical philosophy of Avicenna</i> , 57-116.]	
	02/24	Mid-Term	
13.	02/28	Meister Eckhart 1	

		[Reading: Eckhart, <i>Wandering Joy</i> , 3-50.]	
14.	03/02	Meister Eckhart 2 [Reading: Eckhart, <i>Wandering Joy</i> , 53-125.]	
	03/4-12	Spring Break	
15.	03/14	Meister Eckhart 3 [Reading: Eckhart, <i>Wandering Joy</i> , 129-78.]	
16.	03/16	Meister Eckhart 4 [Reading: Eckhart, <i>Wandering Joy</i> , 178-215.]	
17.	03/21	Sankara 1 [Reading: Sankara, <i>A Thousand Teachings</i> , 3-17 and 103-13.]	Draft of research paper
18.	03/23	Sankara 2 Reading: Sankara, <i>A Thousand Teachings</i> , 114-48.]	
19.	03/28	Sankara 3 Reading: Sankara, <i>A Thousand Teachings</i> , 149-208.]	
20.	03/30	Sankara 4 Reading: Sankara, <i>A Thousand Teachings</i> , 211-54 .]	
	04/04	Service Day—No classes	
21.	04/06	Sankara 5 Reading: Sankara, <i>A Thousand Teachings</i> , 18-68.]	
22.	04/11	Lao Tzu 1 [Reading: Lao Tzu, <i>Guiding Light</i> , 1-15 and 129-54.]	
23.	04/13	Lao Tzu 2 [Reading: Lao Tzu, <i>Guiding Light</i> , 155-202.]	
	04/17	Easter Recess	
24.	04/18	Lao Tzu 3 [Reading: Lao Tzu, <i>Guiding Light</i> , 203-29.]	Research paper
25.	04/20	Lao Tzu 4 [Reading: Lao Tzu, <i>Guiding Light</i> , 19-65.]	
26.	04/25	Lao Tzu 5 [Reading: Lao Tzu, <i>Guiding Light</i> , 66-123.]	
27.	04/27	Concluding Remarks	
	05/1-6	Final Exams	