

SYLLABUS

R.291 MORAL LIFE IN FOUR ASIAN TRADITIONS

Dr. St. John
Comenius-204
Ofc. Hrs.: WF 12:30-1:00 p.m.; M. 6-6:30pm
T-Th 1:30-2:00 p.m.

Spring, 2010
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Course Description. A study of the place and nature of the moral life in the Hindu, Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist (Daoist) traditions. Classical sources will be supplemented with works by selected modern adherents focusing on contemporary problems. Comparisons with western perspectives will be made throughout but especially in examining a contemporary issue or issues. Issues this term will include: a global ethic, non-violent conflict resolution, individual and society, foundations for an ecological ethic, and creativity and morality.

Attendance and Expectations. Students will be expected to attend each class prepared to participate intelligently in the discussions. NOTE: keeping up with the reading assignments will require discipline and effort. First, there is a fair amount of reading and so good time management will be important. Second, you will be unfamiliar with most of the material so you cannot afford to fall behind and “cram.” Writing-to-learn assignments (see below) will

Evaluation.

(1) *The writing-to-learn assignments.* These assignments are meant to help you in understanding new and challenging material, to prepare you for the lecture and discussions, and to encourage you to keep up with the readings. The instructor will give the class a question to answer pertaining to the reading assignment. This one page assignment will be either a take-home or in-class exercise. If composed at home, the work must be yours only and will be turned in at the beginning of the next class. Assignments will be graded with either an “S” or a “U”. At the end of the semester, if you receive an “S” on 80% or more of your papers, your final grade for the course will be raised one notch (ex. B to B+). Between 60 and 79%, your final grade does not change. If less than 60% are “S,” your final average grade for the four papers drops one notch (ex. B- to C+). If you are absent you receive a “U” if a writing assignment is given in class. There will be no make-up writing assignments with exceptions due to illness, etc. **Plagiarism** will result in a “U” for that particular writing assignment as well as a lowering of the student's **final grade** by one level (e.g. C to C-). A second instance of plagiarism will result in a failure for the course, a mark on one's permanent record, and a chat with the Dean.

(2) *Papers: Writing to Demonstrate Understanding.* There will be four essays, all of equal weight. You should be prepared to: generalize from the particulars learned, apply what has been learned in theory to concrete problems, and compare what has been learned to things already known.

(3) *Participation*. Everyone is expected to enter into classroom discussions. The level and quality of participation could influence one's final grade, especially if one is on the borderline

Electronic Devices. Please: No texting, sexting, twittering, tweeting or twirling. Shut off cell phones. If you use a laptop for notes, refrain from other uses.

Required Texts

Kupperman, Joseph. *Classic Asian Philosophy*
Lama, Dalai The. *Ethics for the New Millenium*
Bondurant, Joan. *Conquest of Violence Satyagraha*
Wei-Ming, Tu. *Confucian Transformation of Self*
Merton, Thomas. *The Way of Chuang Tzu*

Note: This syllabus is subject to change if warranted. Significant changes will be discussed first with the whole class.

BUDDHISM: THE DALAI LAMA AND A GLOBAL ETHIC

Jan. 19	Introduction To Course Introduction to Buddhism
Jan. 21	Introduction To Buddhist Ethics Read: Kupperman, Chapter 2 Dalai Lama, Chapter 1&3
Jan. 26	Foundations of a Universal Ethics Read: Dalai Lama, Chs. 2, 4, 5
Jan. 28	Ethics of Restraint & Virtue Read: Dalai Lama, Chs. 6 & 7
Feb. 02	Compassion, Suffering and Discernment Read: Dalai Lama, Chs. 8-10
Feb. 04	Ethics and Society Read: Dalai Lama, Chs. 11-13
Feb. 09	Peace, Religions and Global Harmony Read: Dalai Lama, Chs. 14-16
Feb. 11	Guest Lecturer Dr. Lloyd Steffen, Lehigh University

Feb. 15 (M) Paper #1 Due by Noon

**HINDUISM:
MAHATMA GANDHI AND NON-VIOLENCE**

- Feb. 16 Intro. To Hinduism I
Read: Kupperman, Chapter 1
- Feb. 18 Intro. To Hinduism II
Read: Kupperman, Chapter 3
- FEB. 21 SUNDAY EVENING
FILM: *GANDHI* (Required)
Please Read the Handouts on Gandhi's Life
- Feb. 23 Gandhi and *Satyagraha*
Read: Bondurant, Ch. I
- Feb. 25 *Satyagraha*: Its Basic Precepts
Read: Bondurant, Ch. II
- Mar. 02 Action and Tradition
Read: Bondurant, pp. 36-44; 102-104 and
Chapter IV
- Mar. 04 Gandhi: Conservative or Anarchist?
Read: Bondurant, Ch. V
- Mar. 09 & 11 SPRING RECESS NO CLASS
- Mar. 16 The Gandhian Dialectic
Read: Bondurant, Ch. VI
- Mar. 18 Gandhi and Other Responses to Colonialism
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Khristina Haddad, Political Science Dept.
- Mar. 22 (Mon, Noon) Paper #2 Due**
- CONFUCIANISM AND SOCIAL RELATIONS,
HUMAN AND COSMIC
- Mar. 23 Introduction to Confucianism: Confucius
Read: Kupperman, Ch. 5
- Mar. 25 Intro. To Confucianism: Mencius
Read: Kupperman, Ch. 6
Wei-Ming, Ch. VI
- Mar. 30 Becoming Human and its Value
Read: Thomas Berry, "Affectivity in Classical Confucian Tradition"
Wei-Ming, Ch. IV
- Apr. 01 The Moral and Nature
Read: Wei-Ming, "Beyond the Enlightenment Mentality" On Reserve
Wei-Ming, Ch. II
- Apr. 06 Ecological Thought and Chinese Tradition
Read: "Ecopiety and Sinitic Thought" Hwa Yol Jung
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Hwa Yol Jung, Professor Emeritus
- Apr. 08 Human Rights and Sociality: Human and Cosmic
Read: Rosemont, "Human Rights: A Bill of Worries"
- Apr. 12 (M) Paper # 3 Due, Noon**

TAOISM: CREATIVITY, SPONTANEITY & MORALITY

- Apr. 13 The *Daodejing* (*Tao te jing*)
Read: Kupperman, Ch. 7
- Apr. 15 The *Zhuangzi* (*Chuang Tzu*)
Read: Kupperman, Ch. 8 Apr. 15 Ethical Relativity & Moral Knowing
Read: Merton Selections:
Great and Small (87)
Symphony for a Seabird (103)
The Five Enemies (78)
Great Knowledge (40) (see 44)
The Pivot (42)
When Life was Full (76)
The Kingly Man (72)
- Apr. 20 “Fitting” Actions
Read: Merton Selections:
Duke Hwan (82)
Cutting up the Ox (45)
The Need to Win (107)
The Woodcarver (110)
Monkey Mountain (143)
The Fighting Cock (109)
The Useless Tree (35)
Confucius and Madman (58)
- Apr. 22 Non-Coercive Leadership
Two Kings and No-Form (66)
Leaving Things Alone (70)
Advising the Prince (139)
Cracking the Safe (67)
The Turtle (93)
The Sacrificial Swine (108)
The Owl and Phoenix (95)
Man with One Foot (48)
- Apr. 27 Natural Life and Freedom
Wholeness (105)
The Active Life (141)
The Inner Law (136)
Apologies (138)
When the Shoe Fits (112)
The True Man (60)
How Deep is Tao (73)
Chuang Tzu's Funeral (156)
Metamorphosis (62)
- Apr. 29 Conclusion

FINAL PAPER DUE DATE: TBD

