



M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Explain the range of views found within Asian philosophy.
2. Explain the relevance of Asian philosophy to contemporary philosophical, moral, environmental, and political concerns.
3. Describe the fundamental doctrines and reasoning of the specific philosophers studied in the course.
4. Compare and contrast some Western philosophical viewpoints with those of the Asian philosophers studied in the course.
5. Describe how the doctrines and views of some of the Asian philosophers studied would apply to some contemporary philosophical, moral, social, and environmental concerns.
6. Formulate assessments of some of the doctrines and positions of the Asian philosophers studied.

N: Course Content

1. An introduction to Indian philosophy generally, including the Vedas the Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita and the various paths of yoga, orthodox schools (Nyaya, Vaisesika, Samkhya and Mimamsa), and Heterodox schools (Carvaka, Jainism and Buddhism).
2. An introduction to the Vedantic system, including emphasis on one example (such as Patanjali's yoga or Sankara's system), and points of comparison (e.g., with Parmenides, Spinoza, Kant & Husserl).
3. An introduction to early Buddhism, including the four noble truths, the eightfold path, impermanence, no self-identity, co-dependent origination, Nagarjuna's fourfold negation, and points of comparison (e.g., with Pyrrho, negative theology, Hume, Parfitt).
4. An introduction to Taoism, including the ineffability of the Way, yin and yang, the female principle, harmony of entities and harmony in relations, the natural versus the artificial, an

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students

Texts will be updated periodically. Typical examples are:

Patanjali. Yogasutras of Patanjali