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**Days and Time**: MWF, 10:00am–10:50am

**Room**: Irby 307

**Instructor**: Nicholas Brasovan, PhD **Office Hours**: MWF 1:00-1:50; TR 9:30-2:30  
**Office**: Irby 301c & by appointment  
**Email**: [nbrasovan@uca.edu](mailto:nbrasovan@uca.edu)

**Course Description:** This course is a survey and history of world philosophies. We begin by foregrounding the prevalent theme of dualism in the history of Ancient Greek and Medieval European philosophy. We advance our inquiry by briefly introducing modern critiques of medieval scholasticism and the advent of modern science. We then turn to inquire into naturalistic indigenous Chinese philosophies of Confucianism and Daoism. In this context we explore Chinese metaphysics, epistemology, social-political philosophy, ethics and philosophical anthropology. From China we turn to explore the multi-layered complex philosophical/religious traditions of Hinduism. Finally, we conclude our class with an intensive investigation of early Buddhist philosophy. The course will be taught in several different formats. We will engage in group discussions, and I will conduct lectures. Multimedia technology will be employed to augment the course lessons.

**Objectives**:

1. **Diversity in World Cultures**. A principle of this course is to gain a pluralistic understanding of a diverse array of culturally-grounded worldviews. We will attempt to see things from different culturally-relative perspectives.
2. **History of Ideas**. We will gain a comprehensive (albeit general) understanding of the historical development of philosophical, religious, and scientific worldviews.
3. **Critical Thinking**. We will learn to employ deductive and inductive reasoning to argue for and against different points of view. We will learn to generate and critique different strategies for solving theoretical and practical dilemmas.
4. **Research and Writing.** This course is reading and writing intensive. The aim is to sharpen our research and academic writing skills.

**Required Texts:**

1. Joel Kupperman. *Classic Asian Philosophy: A Guide to the Essential Texts*
2. Handouts (To be distributed in class and/or posted online in the MyUCA course files.)

**Additional Resources (recommended, not required)**:

1. Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> .
2. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*:
3. UCA Writing Center
4. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (in Torreyson Library).
5. [www.ctext.org](http://www.ctext.org)

**Assignments and Point Distribution:**

1. Weekly Homework = 40%

a. Assignments will be due every Friday by the start of class.

b. Weekly assignments are to be downloaded from and uploaded to our course website.

2. Exam 1 = 20%

3. Exam 2 = 20 %

4. Exam 3 = 20%

**Course Policies:**

1. **Attendance: 4 unexcused absences will result in a drop of one full letter grade from student’s final grade. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in an additional drop in one full letter grade from final grade.**
2. **If a student misses class for any reason, he or she should make it a point to visit the teacher to discuss the content of the missed lecture.**

**2. No late assignments will be accepted for credit.**

**3. Use of cell phones** **is prohibited in class**. If a student is observed violating this policy, then that student will be retroactively marked absent without notification.

4. Students are expected to come to class prepared to **participate**. This requires reading the assigned material for the day’s discussion.

5. **Academic Honesty**: The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to *academic integrity* and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. ***Penalties for academic misconduct* (e.g. plagiarism) *in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate***. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy. If you are caught **plagiarizing**, moreover, you will be formally charged with a write-up, which will be submitted to the UCA administration and kept in your permanent academic file.

6. The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Services, 450-3613.

7. Students should familiarize themselves with all policies included in the Student Handbook, particularly the following: Sexual Harassment Policy and Academic Policies.

8. An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.

9. If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to “student-on-student” or “employee-on-student”), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>. *\*Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.*

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| **Monday** | **Wednesday** | **Friday** |
| **NOTE: SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE UPON INSTRUCTOR’S DISCRETION AND NOTIFICATION** |  | January 12  (Jan 11) Classes Begin |
| January 15  Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday | January 17  Bertrand Russell: The Value of Philosophy.  Reading: PDF – Course Files | January 19  Key Terms in Philosophy  No - Reading |
| January 22  Sartre *Existentialism*  Reading: PDF – Course Files | January 24  Kant *Metaphysics of Morals*  Reading: PDF – Course Files | January 26  Intro – Greek Philosophy  Reading:  Power Point Slides – Course Files |
| January 29  Plato  Reading: PDF – Plato’s *Republic* I  Course Files | January 31  Plato  Reading: PDF – Plato’s *Republic* II  Course Files | February 2  Aristotle  Reading: PDF – *Metaphysics*  Course Files |
| February 5  Aquinas  Reading: PDF – Course Files | February 7  Augustine  Reading: PDF – Course Files | February 9  Ibn Sina  Reading: PDF – Course Files |
| February 12 Review | February 14  Review | February 16  **Exam 1.** |
| February 19  Intro to Confucianism  Reading: Wing Tsit Chan – PDF  Course Files  Reading: Kupperman, pp. 76 - 94 | February 21  Confucianism  Reading: Power Point Course Files  Reading: Kupperman, pp. 76 – 94  Reading: Analects PDF | February 23  Confucianism  Reading: Power Point Course Files  Reading: Kupperman, pp. 76 - 94 |
| February 26  Reading: Power Point Course Files | February 28  Confucianism - Mencius  Reading: Kupperman, pp. 95 – 112  Reading: Mencius PDF | March 2  No -Class |
| March 5  Daoism  Reading:  Daoism Power Point – Course Files  Reading: Kupperman 113 – 132  Daodejing: PDF | March 7  Daoism  Reading:  Daoism Power Point – Course Files  Reading: Kupperman 113 - 132 | March 9  Daoism  Reading  Daodejing: PDF – Course Files |
| March 12  Zhuangzi  Kupperman 133 – 149  PDF – Course Files | March 14  Zhuangzi  Kupperman 133 - 149 | March 16  Zhuangzi  Select Passages  PDF – Course Files |
| March 19  Spring Break | March 21  Spring Break | March 23  Spring Break |
| March 26  Review | March 28  **Exam 2** | March 30  Intro to Hinduism  Power Point – Course Files |
| April 2  Upanishads  Reading: Kupperman pp. 3 – 22  Upanishads PDF | April 4  Upanishads  Reading: Kupperman pp. 3 – 22. | April 6  Bhagavad Gita  Reading: Kupperman, 43 – 59  Gita PDF |
| April 9  Bhagavad Gita  Reading: Kupperman, 43 – 59  Dhammapada PDF  Supplementary Reading: Mitchell 1 PDF – Course Files | April 11  Buddhism  Power Point Slides – Course Files  Supplementary Reading: Mitchell 2 PDF – Course Files | April 13  Buddhism  Reading: Kupperman 23 - 42 |
| April 16  Buddhism  Power Point Slides – Course Files  Supplementary Reading: Mitchell 2PDF – Course Files | April 18  Buddhism  Reading: Mitchell 4  PDF Course Files | April 20  Buddhism  Kupperman 150 - 167 |
| April 23  Buddhism  Kupperman 150 - 167 | April 25  **Review** | April 27  Study Day  Review Session |
| April 30  **Exam - 3**  **8:00 AM. IRBY 307** | May 2 | May 4 |