

PHIL 470 (2020-21: Term 2). Comparative Conceptions of the Self. Credits: 3

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This Course Will Be Delivered Asynchronously Through Canvas.

Virtual office hours will be held via Zoom (announced through Canvas). Information will be announced at the beginning of the course.

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on [the UBC Senate website](#).

THIS COURSE WILL BE DELIVERED ASYNCHRONOUSLY THROUGH CANVAS. This means that there are no scheduled class meetings. Instead, the content will consist of remotely delivered modules, each of which will include reading assignments and video lectures by me about the topic and the readings. We will use the Discussions tool in Canvas for discussion about the class content. Participating in the online discussions is optional.

During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression>

Description

This course will examine conceptions of the self in the following Asian traditions: Indian Buddhism, Classical and Later Chinese Philosophy, and Japanese Zen Buddhism. At the end of the course we will read a recent book by a Western philosopher and scholar of Chinese philosophy: Philip J. Ivanhoe, *Oneness: East Asian Conceptions of Virtue, Happiness, and How We Are All Connected*.

Texts

Readings are available through the UBC Library, hyperlink, or Canvas, as indicated on the weekly reading schedule.

There are two texts that are not available at the UBC Library:

Ben Connelly, *Inside Vasubandhu's Yogacara*

Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh, *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life*

You can purchase electronic copies of these books at Amazon or Indigo.

Requirements

- Weekly reading assignments and lecture videos about them.
- Three reflective papers, 1500 words, responding to assigned prompts. Each paper is worth 1/3 of your final grade. Information with due dates will be posted in Canvas.

Statement on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is intellectual theft and occurs when an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship rests on examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. When another person's words (i.e., phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. For further information, please see the following link about academic misconduct:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILURE OF THE ASSIGNMENT, as well as possible further disciplinary action by the University.

Email Policy

The following guidelines apply to email communication during this course:

- I will make every effort to reply to legitimate email inquiries within 24 hours during weekdays but will likely take longer to respond to email during the weekend.
 - Each email message should include in the Subject line the course identifier and a clear statement of purpose (e.g., PHIL 491: Question about Paper); otherwise, it may be deleted along with spam messages.
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Copyright

All materials of this course (readings, videos, lecture slides, handouts, etc.) are the intellectual property of the course instructor or licensed to be used in this course by the copyright owner. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline.

Schedule

Module 1: Indian Buddhism

Week 1: The Buddha

“The Noble Search,” <https://www.dhammatalks.org/suttas/MN/MN26.html>

“The Great Establishing of Mindfulness Discourse,”

<https://www.dhammatalks.org/suttas/DN/DN22.html>

Recommended: Mark Siderits, “Buddha,” <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/buddha/>

Week 2: The Buddha

“The Great Causes Discourse,” <https://www.dhammatalks.org/suttas/DN/DN15.html>

“The Greater Craving-Destruction Discourse,”

<https://www.dhammatalks.org/suttas/MN/MN38.html>

“The All,” https://www.dhammatalks.org/suttas/SN/SN35_23.html

“Vajirā Sutta,” (Verses of Sister Vajirā)

<https://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/sn/sn05/sn05.010.bodh.html>

Week 3: Non-self in *The Questions of King Milinda*

The Debate of King Milinda, chapters 1 & 2:

http://www.buddhanet.net/pdf_file/milinda.pdf

Week 4: Vasubandhu

Ben Connelly, *Inside Vasubandhu's Yogacara*

Module 2: Classical Chinese Philosophy

Week 5: Kongzi

The Path, chapters 1-3

Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, Chapter 1. See especially *Analects* 1.1, 1.12, 2.4, 3.12, 4.2, 7.19, 7.20, 7.34, 12.1, 15.5, 15.18, 15.28, 17.2.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ubc/detail.action?docID=601013>

Week 6: Mengzi

The Path, chapter 4

Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, Chapter 3.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ubc/detail.action?docID=601013>

Week 7: Reading Week

Week 8: Laozi

The Path, chapter 5

Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, Chapter 4.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ubc/detail.action?docID=601013>

Week 9: Zhuangzi

The Path, chapter 7.

Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, Chapter 5.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ubc/detail.action?docID=601013>

Week 10: Xunzi

The Path, chapters 8 and 9.

Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, Chapter 6.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ubc/detail.action?docID=601013>

Week 11: Neo-Confucianism

Cheng Hao, "On Understanding Benevolence," at Canvas

Wang Yangming, "A Record for Practice," at Canvas

Module 3: Zen

Week 12: Dōgen

Dōgen, "Genjokoan,"

http://www.thezensite.com/ZenTeachings/Dogen_Teachings/GenjoKoan8.htm

Week 13: The Kyoto School

Suzuki Teitarō Daizetz (D. T. Suzuki), "Self the Unattainable," at Canvas

Nishitani Keiji, "The Awakening of Self in Buddhism," at Canvas

Suzuki Teitarō Daizetz (D. T. Suzuki), “What is the ‘I’?”, at Canvas
Nishitani Keiji, “The I-Thou Relation in Zen Buddhism,” at Canvas

Module 4: The Oneness Hypothesis

Week 14: Oneness

Philip J. Ivanhoe, *Oneness*. <https://oxford-universitypressscholarship-com.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/view/10.1093/oso/9780190840518.001.0001/oso-9780190840518>