

PHIL 440
TTh 2pm-3:30pm

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Office hours: Wednesdays 11am – 1pm; TTh after class or by appointment

PHIL 440: I See the Pot and the Pot Sees Me

As sentient beings, we exist in worlds populated by objects and other subjects that appear to be entirely distinct from us. But, if you and I were really utterly distinct, and really completely different from the objects in our worlds, how could we interact at all? What's the connection that allows us to experience ourselves and others as both distinct *and* part of the same world? A philosophical tradition that flourished in Kashmir in the 9th-11th centuries offers particularly brilliant responses to questions such as these. This tradition, called Pratyabhijñā, holds that we are able to experience our worlds as we do because our worlds are nothing but the play of divine consciousness manifesting itself in diverse forms. This may strike you as implausible, but Pratyabhijñā thinkers will that rational inquiry leads directly to their view. We'll explore their arguments by reading key primary texts in English translation.

Assignments and Grading Structure: All assignments will be submitted via Canvas. You do not have to submit physical copies of any assignments. Our assessment scale follows [UBC's standard grading policy](#).

1) Weekly Group Assignments (30%; due Thursdays at the end of class)

On Thursdays, you'll break into regular small groups and each group will complete an assignment. Generally, you'll be given a question to answer or a scenario to respond to. Each member of a given group (who is present) will receive the same mark on the assignment. At the end of the term, you'll have an opportunity to evaluate the performance of the other members of your group, and your final group exercise grade can be affected by these evaluations. *If there's some structural reason why you're not able to attend class on Thursdays, talk to Cat immediately to determine if we can work out an alternative way for you to complete these assignments.*

2) Short Answer Paper #1 on the *Śivadr̥ṣṭi* (20%; due Friday, Oct. 8th)

I'll give you three prompts a week before, and you'll pick two to respond to. Each response will be approximately 750 words long. Your responses will be based on our class readings. You should NOT do outside research for this paper. All sources must be properly cited within the text of the paper. You must give page numbers in your citations.

3) Short Answer Paper #2 on the *Īśvarapratyabhijñākārikā* (20%; due Monday, Nov. 15th)

I'll give you three prompts a week before, and you'll pick two to respond to. Each response will be approximately 750 words long. Your responses will be based on our class readings. You should NOT do outside research for this paper. All sources must be properly cited within the text of the paper. You must give page numbers in your citations.

4) Final Short Answer Paper on Part III and the course as a whole: 30% (Monday, Dec. 20th)

This assignment will have two parts. In Part I, you'll be given three prompts on the material from Part III of the course, and you'll pick two to respond to. Each response will be approximately 750 words long. In Part II of the assignment, you'll be given two prompts concerning the course as a whole, and you'll pick one to respond to. This response will be approximately 1000-1250 words long. I'll give you these prompts on the last day of class.

****If you'd like to write an independent thesis-driven research paper of around 1500 words instead of doing Part II of the Final Short Answer Paper, talk to me early in the term. **You still have to do Part I of the Final Short Answer Paper even if you decide to write an independent paper instead of doing Part II.** You'll have to propose a topic and meet with me by **no later than November 9th**. I only recommend this option for highly motivated advanced Philosophy students. This option will be much more work, with the corresponding potential to be even more rewarding.*

UBC's Academic Integrity Policies are in effect at all times in this class. I take plagiarism very seriously and there will be consequences, ranging from failing the assignment to being reported to UBC's Academic Misconduct Committee, if you do not properly cite any and all sources you use in your assignments. For your reference, here is UBC's policy on plagiarism:

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, 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 (<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>).

Statement of UBC Values and Resources: 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 and cultural 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 at <https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>

Late Policy

If you do not ask me for an extension, I will deduct 5% from the assignment grade for each day that the assignment is late. This is a hard and fast policy. If you would like an extension of up to 48 hours, *just ask*. Send me an email requesting a specific amount of additional time (for example, you could ask for an additional 24 hours). You can ask for the extension at 11:58pm the day the assignment is due if you need to; as long as you email me a request for a specific amount of additional time up to 48 hours, the request will be granted. **You do not need to give me an excuse or a justification. Please DO NOT send medical documentation or pictures.** I trust you, and I trust that if you're asking for an extension it's because you just need a little more time to produce your best work.

I will not grant any extension of more than 48 hours unless you file for a formal Academic Concession with the appropriate UBC office. Here's a link to UBC's guide to Academic Concessions for Arts Students: <https://www.arts.ubc.ca/degree-planning/academic-performance/academic-concession/>, and here's the link for Sciences Students: <https://science.ubc.ca/students/advising/concession>

The idea behind this two-tiered late policy (automatically granting short extensions if they're requested before the assignment is due but requiring long extensions to go through UBC's formal process) is that I know that there are many reasons why it might take longer than planned to produce high-quality intellectual work. An extension of 48 hours is unlikely to significantly affect your ability to keep up with the new work in the course, but if something longer than that is needed, there is a good chance that your ongoing work will be impacted. UBC has excellent resources for academic advising, and they can help you figure out a plan if there's a significant disruption. Please take advantage of these resources knowing that I will always follow whatever formal guidance they give us.

Required Texts: All readings for this course will be posted on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Part I: Somānanda's *Śivadr̥ṣṭi*

Week 1: Syllabus; get to know each other (Sept. 9th only)

Week 2: *The Ubiquitous Śiva*, Part I: Introduction to the Translation, p. 1-78

Week 3: (Sept. 23rd): *The Ubiquitous Śiva*, Chapter One of the *Śivadr̥ṣṭi* and the *Śivadr̥ṣṭivṛtti*: Śiva and his Powers, p. 99-145; probably selections from Chapters Two and Three

Week 4: (Sept. 30th): selections from *The Ubiquitous Śiva*, *Volume II* translation

Part II: Utpaladeva's *Īśvarapratyabhijñākārikāvṛtti*

Week 5: Ratié, “Utpaladeva and Abhinavagupta on the Freedom of Consciousness” (or other introductory secondary source); **Short Answer Paper #1 due on Friday, Oct. 8th**

Week 6: ĪPKV Section 1: Knowledge, p. 85-151 (Oct. 14th)

Week 7: ĪPKV Section 2: Action, p. 153-188; selections from Ratié’s new translation of the fragments of the ĪPKVi (Oct. 21st)

Week 8: ĪPKV Section 3: Revelation, p. 189-219; Flood’s article on the *tattvas*; maybe selections from the PAS (Nov. 4th)

Part III: Abhinavagupta’s Ritual, Philosophy, and Aesthetics

Week 9*: NO CLASS THURSDAY Something introductory to Abhinava’s ritual context (maybe Dyczkowski’s final chapter); **Short Answer Paper #2 due on Monday, November 15th**

Week 10: MŚV verses 1-399, Hanneder translation p. 59-123 (English side only) (Nov. 18th)

Week 11: Selections from either the PAS or the PTV

Week 12: Gnoli’s *The Aesthetic Experience According to Abhinavagupta*, Introduction and English translations

Week 13: Last day of class Tuesday, Dec. 7th; finish up aesthetics if needed; final paper topic handed out in class

*****Final paper due at 11:59pm via Canvas on Monday, December 20th*****