

**PHIL 470 (2024-25: Term 2). Comparative Conceptions of the Self. Credits: 3
Tues & Thurs. 9:30-11:00AM. HEBB-114.**

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Office hours: TBA

TA: TBA

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This course will examine various conceptions of the self in Asian philosophical traditions. Although the class format is lecture, emphasis will be given to classroom discussion of readings.

Required Books: available at the UBC bookstore, or from your preferred book seller. If you have trouble acquiring any of these books, contact me.

Jay L. Garfield, Maria Heim, and Robert H. Sharf, *How to Lose Yourself*

Jonardon Ganeri, *Inwardness: An Outsider's Guide*

Patrick Olivelle, *Upaniṣads*

Requirements

Attendance 10% Attendance will be recorded with a sign-in sheet.

10 multiple choice quizzes (via Canvas) on the readings. Instructions at Canvas. You should have no trouble with the quizzes if you do the readings and attend the lectures. Each quiz worth 5% . All 10 quizzes = 50%.

2 papers, each worth 20%. Length 1700 words maximum. Instructions for writing these papers will be posted separately at 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 their 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

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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 470: Question about Paper).

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Jan. 7 & 9. *Upaniṣads*

Upaniṣads, 28-30, 34-52, 58-71, 171-175.

Week 2: Jan. 14 & 16. *Upaniṣads*

Upaniṣads, 227-228, 232-247, 268-277, 289-290.

Week 3: Jan. 21 & 23. *The Buddha*.

How to Lose Yourself, vii-25.

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

Week 4: Jan 28 & 30. *Buddhist Philosophical Analyses of the Self*.

How to Lose Yourself, 26-53.

Week 5. Feb. 4 & 6. *Buddhist Philosophical Analyses of the Self*.

How to Lose Yourself, 55-121.

Week 6. Feb 11 & 13. *A Buddhist Philosophical Thought Experiment*.

Robert H. Sharf, "The Curious Case of the Conscious Corpse: A Medieval Buddhist Thought Experiment" (Canvas)

Jing Huang & Jonardon Ganeri, "Is This Me? A Story About Personal Identity from the *Mahāprajñāpāramitopadeśa/Dà zhìdù lùn*"

Week 7: Feb 18 & 20. READING WEEK.

Week 8: Feb 25 & 27. Nyāya on the Self.

The Nyāya-sūtra, Chapter 4: Self (at Canvas)

Week 9: March 4 & 6. Buddhism Versus Nyāya.

Matthew Kapstein, “Vasubandhu and the Nyāya Philosophers on Personal Identity” (at Canvas)

Mark Siderits, *Buddhism as Philosophy*, selections (at Canvas)

Week 10. March 11 & 13. Advaita Vedānta.

Śaṅkara, *Brahmasūtrabhāṣya*, selections (at Canvas)

Eliot Deutsch, *Advaita Vedānta: A Philosophical Reconstruction*, Chapter 4: The Self (at Canvas)

Week 11: March 18 & 20. Chan.

How to Lose Yourself, 123-195.

Week 12: March 25 & 27. Chan.

How to Lose Yourself, 123-195.

Week 13. April 1 & 3. Inwardness.

Jonardon Ganeri, *Inwardness*.

Week 14. April 8. Conclusion.