



**II. DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRICULAR CHANGE**

**1. New Syllabus of Record**

**RLST 311: Eastern Philosophy**

**I. Catalog Description**

RLST 311 Eastern Philosophy

3 class hours

0 lab hours

Prerequisite: none

3 credits

(3c-0l-3cr)

An examination of texts from East Asia and South Asia that address such philosophical areas as the nature of human knowledge, the nature of reality, and ethics. The class may include readings from such traditions as Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and/or Hinduism.

**II. Course Outcomes (Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes)**

**Objective 1**

~~Identify assumptions, concepts, and modes of reasoning found in classical Chinese and Indian~~

**Objective 2**

Understand how particular lines of inquiry, argumentation, and reasoning have shaped Asian  
philosophy and culture

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**Rationale**

This objective meets the Informed Learners Outcome as a Liberal Studies elective and  
specifically as a Global Citizenship Liberal Studies elective because it challenges students to

analyze the relationship of philosophical discourse with historical, religious, and

Rationale

*This objective meets the Informed Learners Outcome as a Liberal Studies elective and*

*Atman*: Self as essence  
*Maya*: The illusory nature of “reality”  
*Brahman*: Universal Being as Impersonal Absolute  
*Ishvara*: Ultimate reality as Personal Absolute

**Indian Buddhist Philosophy: Madyamika Metaphysics (5 hours) (Quiz 4)**

*Anatman*: The false sense of Self  
Senses, aggregates, and elements  
*Shunyata* (Emptiness): A Buddhist approach to the mind-body problem  
Causality: A Buddhist metaphysics

**Unit 6: The Daoist Approach II: Zhuangzi (6 hours)**

Radical relativism: the limits of knowledge and ethics

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The usefulness of uselessness

**Test 2 (1 hour)**

**Unit 7: The Confucian Project III: Zhu Xi and Yi Toegye (5 hours) (Quiz 5)**

*Li* and *xiang*: Principle and phenomena  
*You* and *wu*: Being and non-being  
*Xin* and *Xing*: Revisiting mind and nature  
The communal self: Neo-Confucian political philosophy  
Feminist critiques of Confucian philosophy

**Unit 8: Japanese Buddhist Philosophy: The Kyoto School (5 hours)**

Emptiness and nihilism  
Emptiness and time  
Emptiness and history

Culminating activity: a final exam to take place during final exam period.

**IV. Evaluation Method**

Quizzes 10% (five quizzes, 2% each)  
Tests 30% (two tests, 15% each)  
Final Exam 30%  
Final Project 30% (diagrams with accompanying essays)

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## **VI. Attendance Policy**

Students will be expected to come to class regularly. The faculty member teaching the course will define attendance standards for the course and the consequences of not meeting those standards. The instructor's policy will conform to the standards set by the University Senate: it will be distributed in writing to students during the first week of the course; it will recognize students' need to miss class because of illness or personal emergency; and it will define some

limited level of allowable absence.

## **VII. Required Textbooks**

Chandler, "RLST 311 Reader" (selections from *Mulamadhyamakakarika*, *Jinsi Lu*, etc.)  
Ivanhoe, Philip J. and Bryan Van Norden. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Hackett Pub. Company, 2006.  
Nishitani Keiji. *Religion and Nothingness*. Berkeley: California University Press, 1982.

## **VIII. Special Resource Requirements**

There are no special resource requirements.

----- *Confucius: The Analects*. Penguin Classics. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1979.  
----- *Maocius*. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 2003

Laumakis, Stephen J. *An Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy*. NY: Cambridge University  
Press, 2008.

Chicago Press, 2005.

**Evaluation of the Sample Assignment (grading rubric):**

**A. Diagrams (25 points)**

Accuracy	unacceptable	poor	fair	good	very good	excellent
Comprehensiveness	unacceptable	poor	fair	good	very good	excellent
Presentation	unacceptable	poor	fair	good	very good	excellent

**B. Commentaries (75 points)**

**1. Content (50 points)**

**points**

Accuracy of facts	unacceptable	poor	fair	good	very good	excellent
Comprehensiveness	unacceptable	poor	fair	good	very good	excellent
Appropriateness and insightfulness	unacceptable	poor	fair	good	very good	excellent

b. Comparison	unacceptable	poor	fair	good	very good	excellent
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**2. Summary of the Proposed Revisions**

- a. Revision of course objectives
- b. Update syllabus of record

**3. Rationale for proposed revisions:**

- a. The objectives have been updated to meet the requirements for the Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes

considering the role of religious values and ideals in shaping cultural, social, and political norms. The Department of Religious Studies is therefore providing a



### III. LETTER OF SUPPORT

Since this class will also serve as an elective for the Asian Studies major and minor, the text of

This is to confirm that the Asian Studies Committee supports the revisions that have been made

#### IV. LIBERAL STUDIES COURSE APPROVAL GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Since for the foreseeable future Dr. Stuart Chandler is the only member on the faculty of the Department of Religious Studies who intends to teach this course, basic equivalency among the sections is assured.

B. Nearly all of the readings for this course are by authors from South Asia or East Asia (e.g. Sankara, Confucius, Laozi, Nagarjuna, Nishitani). The course will look at how such philosophical texts have shaped critical and ethical reasoning in Asia, as well as how the more recent writings have engaged with Western philosophical approaches. Feminist critiques of Confucian political

philosophy is also included.

C. Students will be required to read a significant portion of a substantial work of nonfiction: Keiji

COURSE SYLLABUS

RS 311 Eastern Philosophy

3 credits

no prerequisites

i. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

An examination and critique of the philosophies which have shaped Eastern world views and ways of life as found in a representative sampling of Chinese, Japanese, and Indian thought.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the major philosophical traditions of India, China

and Japan.

Asia throughout the past two and one half millenniums, and influenced the ways of life of the Indian, Chinese and Japanese Americans as

The Four Noble Truths  
Nature of Reality and Self  
~~Zen Buddhism~~  
Is Buddhism Pessimistic?  
Is Buddhism Atheistic?  
Buddhism and the Modern World

~~Chinese Philosophies~~

The Chinese Philosophies

The basic characteristics of Chinese philosophy  
Confucianism  
Mo Tzu  
Mencius  
~~Taoism~~  
Hsun Tzu  
Taoism  
The Legalists  
Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism  
Recent Chinese thought

~~The Japanese Philosophies~~

Shinto  
Zen

IV. EVALUATION METHODS

There will be three examinations which will cover materials assigned from the text books, supplemental readings as well as class lectures. Each exam will be counted equally.

of thought, etc.