

Instructor: **A. T. Fenton**

**Philosophy 154E (001)**  
**Asian Philosophies**

2003-2004

**Class Hours:** TU, TH 12-1, TC 343  
**Office Hours:** TU, TH 1:30-2:30, TC 306  
(or by appointment)

**Email:** afenton2@uwo.ca  
**Phone:** 661-2111, ext.85798

**Course Description:**

The main objective of this course is to develop an understanding of the basic philosophical ideas in traditional Indian, Chinese, and Japanese thought. To that end we will be examining some of the main teachings of Hinduism, Jainism, Theravada Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism, Zen Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. We will be also examining how some of these traditions have informed the martial philosophies of China and Japan. The course is designed to serve the needs of students from all sectors of the university and presupposes no previous knowledge of Asian or Western Philosophies.

**Required Texts:**

Koller, John M. *Asian Philosophies*. Fourth Edition. Published by Prentice Hall, Inc., 2002.  
*Bhagavad Gita*. Translated by Stephen Mitchell. Published by Three Rivers Press, 2002.  
*Dhammapada*. Translated by Thomas Byrom. Published by Shambhala Publications, Inc., 1993.  
Conze, Edward, ed. *Buddhist Scriptures*. Published by Penguin UK., 1959.  
*Tao Te Ching*. A rendering by Ursula K. LeGuin. Published by Random House of Canada, Ltd., 1998.  
*Course Pack*, available at Inprint.

**Course Web Site:**

There will be a web-site containing lecture (power-point) notes, class handouts (whenever possible), a vocabulary page and on-line resources for Asian philosophies. **The URL will be announced in class.**

**Assignments and Tests:**

Two **1000** word assignments will be due in the first semester and one **1000** word assignment in the second (each will be worth 10% of your final grade). One **2000** word paper will be due toward the end of the second semester (it will be worth 25% of the overall grade). An exam will be given at the end of the second semester (it will be worth 35% of the overall grade). You will be required to write twelve (short) in-class quizzes during the course of the year. **The best ten out of those twelve** will be worth 1% of your overall grade **each** (i.e. they are worth 10% of your overall grade when taken together).

**Email policies:**

*Email submissions of Term Papers will NOT be accepted unless you have my explicit permission to do so.*  
I will respond to emails within **SEVEN DAYS** of the date they are sent.

**Schedule for the Assignments and Tests, with accompanying grade values:**

Ten best of twelve in-class quizzes		10%
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	First assignment	10%
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	Second assignment	10%
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Third assignment	10%
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Term Paper	25%
During Winter Examination Period	Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
		100%

**In-class quiz dates for the Fall Semester:** September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>.  
**In-class quiz dates for the Winter Semester:** January 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Department policy requires that you submit your papers to Turnitin.com. This does not replace your submission to me. Your mark for any given assignment will not be official until it is submitted to Turnitin. Indeed, a condition for getting the relevant assignments back is that they are first so submitted.** Instructions for how to submit your work to Turnitin.com can be found by following the relevant links on the course web site.

### **Missed Assignments or Tests:**

It is an unfortunate fact of life that sometimes life (or the universe) conspires against you, interfering with your ability to complete your course work. In such circumstances **go to see your academic counselor** (this provides an objective basis for granting extensions and protects your privacy). When I receive a letter of support from them, we can negotiate new deadlines for the relevant course work.

During *each semester* you will have **three days of grace** which you can choose to use against the deadlines for your assignments or term paper (you can choose to use your days of grace against one deadline, or spread them out over all the deadlines). If you are so inclined you can 'bank' your days of grace from the First Term to use, in conjunction with your three days of grace for the Second, against the relevant assignment deadlines in the Second Semester (this does not work *vice versa*). Late assignments, not covered under the days of grace, will suffer a **penalty of 2% of the earned grade of the relevant assignment for every day they are late (2% over week-ends)**. Each day ends at 4:00 p.m. (each week-end begins on Friday at 4:00 p.m. and ends on Monday at 8:30 a.m.) Do use your days of grace wisely ... once they are gone, they are gone.

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Students are responsible for following the Philosophy Department procedures included with this outline. On their office doors, instructors, teaching assistants and tutorial leaders will post information regarding the dates, times and locations of tests and review sessions.

THIS OUTLINE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE.

**You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.**