

Spring 1-15-1999

ENG 3110C-001-002: Cultural Foundations II: India, China, and the Middle East

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Section 001: Young Sook Lee/M. Loudon MWF 1300-1350 CH226
 Section 002: Young S. Lee/Michael Loudon MWF 1500-1550 CH226

Cultural Foundations II: India, China and the Middle East

Course Description: This course introduces students to the cultural foundations of India, China and the Middle East through literary, philosophical and sacred texts that have helped shape and define these civilizations. In the first segment on India, we shall read excerpts from the Upanishads to discuss Brahmanism and the development of Hinduism, then continue with readings from the *Mahabharata* and the *Bhagavad Gita*. From classical Hinduism, we shall consider the basic doctrines of Buddhism. The second segment examines Chinese civilization through the study of Confucius and his ideals of self and humanity, of Taoism as reflected in the works of Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu. The final segment focuses on the civilizations of the Middle East by first considering Arab culture and the dawn of Islam through substantial excerpts from *The Koran*. Next, we shall turn to Sufi spiritualism through short readings from Rumi, Lalla, Hafiz and Kabir. Finally, we shall consider Islamic culture in Africa by reading a novel by Naguib Mahfouz.

Course Format: As instructors in a team-taught interdisciplinary course, we shall provide introductory contexts for our readings through lectures and responses that we hope will provoke your questions and comments so that discussion can become an integral aspect of our time in class. Exploring these traditions in reference to Western philosophical issues and literary themes whenever appropriate, we encourage you to relate your questions and perceptions to your own experiences and beliefs by focusing on differences and similarities. What are the implications for these systems of thought? Do these cultural ideas and traditions help illuminate current socio-political and cultural events?

Course Texts:

W. T. Chan, *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy*
 N. J. Dawood, *The Koran* (rev. ed.)
 F. Denny, *Islam and the Muslim Community*
 E. Easwaran, *The Bhagavad Gita*
 J. Kritzeck, *Anthology of Islamic Literature*
 Lalla, *Naked Song*, Coleman Barks, trans.
 Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, Victor H. Mair, ed.
 N. Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley*
 S. Radhakrishnan and C. Moore, *A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy*
 W. Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught*
 Rumi, *Like This*, Coleman Barks, trans.

Prerequisite: All students must have completed ENG 1002C, 1092 or the equivalent.

Course Requirements and Grading: Three essay examinations, including the final; two 4-6 page essays. Each examination and essay will count 20% in the final course grade.

Office Hours: Young Sook Lee Phone: 6335 Office: CH 316K
 MWF 2:00-3:00; or, by appointment

Michael Loudon Phone: 6312 Office: CH 314D
 MWF 2:00-3:00; T 5:00-6:00; or, by appointment

General Policies:

Grading Standards: We shall follow the EIU English Department Guidelines, distributed in class. In all cases, we shall use a plus and minus system to distinguish, say, a high B from a low one.

Attendance: We do take roll, and we evaluate attendance only indirectly in the context of your participation in the course.

Conferences: These are at your request unless we ask to see you. Please ask for help as soon as you feel you need it; please don't wait until the last couple of weeks of class.

Submission of work: Essays should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper only, titled and indicate the following: name, date, course and section number. Exercises and quizzes must be legible.

Late Essays: For each day that the essay is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an A essay due on Friday will be an F by the next Thursday. If there are particular difficulties, please see one of us.

Plagiarism: The English Department Policy

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and the representation of them as one's own original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

If we discover an act of plagiarism, we shall exercise the right to the fullest extent possible. (See the Handbook, pp. 505-518, for a further discussion of what constitutes plagiarism and how to integrate properly your material from sources.)

Academic Dishonesty:

Obviously, any act of cheating other than plagiarism will also carry an academic penalty, that to be determined by Judicial Affairs, depending upon the dishonest act and the circumstances.

Information for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

English/Philosophy 3110C

Spring 1999

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Syllabus: Cultural Foundations II (India, China and the Middle East)

January

M 11: Course Introduction and Organization
W 13: **Hindu and Buddhist Thought**
Kena and Katha *Upanishads* from Radhakrishnan and Moore, *A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy*, pp. 41-50.
F 15: Radhakrishnan and Moore, "The Mahabharata" (pp. 99-100; 164-171)

M 18: Martin L. King, Jr. Day--no class
W 20: (continued)
F 22: *The Bhagavad Gita*, trans. E. Easwaran: "Introduction"; chapters 1-2

M 25: (continued); chapters 3-7
W 27: (continued); chapters 8-12
F 29: (continued); chapters 13-18

February

M 1: W. Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught*
W 3: (continued)
F 5: (continued)

M 8: (continued)
W 10: **Essay examination (#1) on Hinduism and Buddhism**
F 12: No class--Lincoln's birthday

M 15: **Chinese thought**
Confucius, from W. T. Chan, *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*,
"The Humanism of Confucius" [*The Analects*] (pp. 14-48) and "The Doctrine
of the Mean" (pp. 95-114)
W 17: (continued)
F 19: (continued)

M 22: (continued)
W 24: (continued)
F 26: (continued)

March

M 1: Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, V. H. Mair, trans.
W 3: (continued)
F 5: (continued) **Essay #1 Due**

M 8: (continued)
W 10: (continued)
F 12: (continued)

Spring Break (March 15-19)

M 22: Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, V. H. Mair, trans.
W 24: (continued)
F 26: **Essay examination (#2) on Confucianism and Taoism**

M 29: **Islamic Thought**

Denny, *Islam and the Muslim Community*, Chap. 1-2

W 31: (continued)

April

F 2: Early Arabic poetry and the Qur'an

Kritzeck, *Anthology of Islamic Literature*, "Introduction" (pp. 3-22);

"Early Arabic Poetry" (pp. 52-65, especially pp. 52-560; Denny, Chap. 3

M 5: Dawood, *The Koran* (suras 1, 5, 9, 12, 74, 89, 92, 93, 106, 114);

Kritzeck (pp. 22-51); Denny, Chap. 4

W 7: (continued)

F 9: (continued)

M 12: (continued)

W 14: Sufism and Sufi poetry

Kritzeck, Rumi (pp. 149-152; 238-246); Hafiz (pp. 259-261; 267-273)

Read as much of Rumi, *Like This* and Lalla, *Naked Song* (both trans. By C. Barks) as you can; selections for class discussion will be announced.

F 16: (continued)

M 19: (continued)

W 21: (continued)

F 23: Islam in Africa: An Overview

Mafouz, *Midaq Alley*; Denny, Chap. 5; **Essay #2 Due**

M 26: (continued)

W 28: (continued)

F 30: **Essay Examination (#3) on Islamic Thought**

There is no final examination.

*****Please note:** We may--from time to time--alter slightly the above syllabus, so please be sure that you keep abreast of developments in the class.