



Syllabus, Spring Semester, 2008-2009 School Year

Course: PHIL 1135, Philosophy East & West

Credit Hours: 3

Time and Location: M W, 2:00-3:20 PM, S-136.

Instructor: **Paul G. Fendos, Jr.**

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday by appointment **Cell Phone:** 952-846-4792.

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Required Texts: *Sources of Chinese Tradition: From Earliest Times to 1600*, compiled by Wm. Theodore De Bary & Irene Bloom. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.

Greek Philosophy: Thales to Aristotle, 3rd ed. Ed. by Reginald E. Allen. New York: Free Press, 1991.

Course Description: This is a one-semester course in comparative philosophy. The main goals of this course are to describe and compare the foundations of the philosophical traditions of East and West. Focus is on ancient China and Greece and applying knowledge of those traditions to better understand the global dynamics of the present-day world.

Course Objectives: See **Abbreviated Schedule of Classes and Assignments** below.

Grading: The final grade for this course will be based on five main items: a **mid-term essay exam**, an **individual oral presentation**, a short (2-4 page) **research paper**, a **final essay exam**, and **class participation**. Each item will count 250 points for a total of 1,250 points.

Mid-term & Final Essay Exams: Six questions will be handed out 7-10 days prior to both the mid-term and final exams. These questions will be centered on topics or themes introduced in the readings or classroom discussions. Students will be encouraged to work together preparing suitable answers to these six questions and then on exam day the instructor will chose four of these questions, from which students must chose two to write on. The test will be closed book.

Oral Presentation & Short Research Paper: Look over the attached 'Essentials of Oral Presentation and Short Research Paper' handout for information on how to begin these assignments. Any specific questions you have can be directed to the instructor.

Final grades will be calculated by applying a student's cumulative point total to the following scale:

90% of total possible points and above = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D
Below 60% = F

A running total of your points can be seen by going online to the D2L site for this course and clicking on Grades.

Extra-Credit is offered for active participation in a **weekly Discussion Board** that can also be found at the Desire 2 Learn (D2L) web site for this course. Students are encouraged to post questions or comments on anything introduced in the texts or classroom discussions, or offer answers to or comments on posted materials. The instructor will monitor the Discussion Board, adding his own comments when appropriate. One point will be given for each question, answer, or comment posted, up to a total of 10 points per week, or a total of 160 possible points for the whole semester. It is not difficult to see that active participation in these Discussion Boards could raise your grade one level (for example, from a 'B' to an 'A'), so do participate! **Students will be introduced to the D2L web site and how to navigate around in it during the first week of class.**

Peer Review & Question/Answer Sessions: Nothing.

Academic Progress Policy: Students taking Six or more Credits—2.0 GPA and 67% Completion Rate.

ADA Statement: Reasonable accommodations that make sure all materials, discussions, and activities that are part of this course are accessible will be provided to students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, and psychiatric disabilities. To discuss accommodations for this course, please visit the Disability Services Office (L 224) or contact by phone (651-450-8628 or TTY 651-450-8369) and contact the instructor.

Religious Accommodation Statement: Inver Hills strongly supports the principles of free expression and respect for the diversity of beliefs, including religious observances, among our academic community. It is the policy of the college to provide reasonable accommodations for students when religious observances conflict with classroom activities or course requirements. It is the responsibility of students to inform instructors in a timely fashion of such conflicts. If a mutually agreed accommodation is not possible, students may initiate an appeal. The procedure for this appeal is the same as the Grade Appeal Policy described in the Catalog and on the IHCC website.

Student's Right to Know: Policies on Harassment and Discrimination, Crime Awareness and Campus Security Report, Drug- and Alcohol-Free Campus, Student Conduct, and Academic Honesty are available on the IHCC website. Inver Hills has established policies and procedures to handle violations in a timely manner.

Incomplete Grade and Withdrawal Information: Students must initiate requests for either an incomplete grade or withdrawal from a course by filing the appropriate form with Enrollment Services. Students who stop attending classes without completing the withdrawal process may receive a grade of "F," and are responsible for all tuition/fees associated with the course registration. Please see the current Class Schedule or Catalog for details on forms and deadlines.

Abbreviated Schedule of Classes and Assignments: The following is a general *tentative* schedule. Changes in this schedule may occur, and it is the student's responsibility to note any such changes. All changes in—as well as further details of—this schedule will be announced in class.

January 12 & 14, 2009

Week 1: General Introduction to Class, Texts, and Subject of Philosophy
Greece: Origins of Western Civilization, Ancient Greek Myth & Religion
Readings: *Greek Philosophy*, Introduction, pp. 1-21.
Theogeny, by Hesiod at <http://omacl.org/Hesiod/theogony.html>.

January 19 & 21, 2009

Week 2: **Martin Luther King Holiday, No Class, January 19, 2009**
China: Origins of Chinese Civilization, Shang Dynasty (1576-1059 B.C.E.) Myth & Religion
Readings: *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 3-23.

January 26 & 28, 2009

Week 3: **Greece:** Milesian [Natural] Philosophy: Thales (624-546 B.C.E.), Anaximander (610-546 B.C.E.) & Anaximenes (585-525 B.C.E.)
Readings: *Greek Philosophy*, pp. 27-39.

February 2 & 4, 2009

Week 4: **China:** Western Zhou (1045-771 B.C.E.) Concepts of Heaven, Moral Order, and the State
Readings: *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 24-40.

February 9 & 11, 2009

Week 5: **Greece:** Pythagoreans (fl. 6th cent. B.C.E.) & Heraclitus (535-475 B.C.E.)
Readings: *Greek Philosophy*, pp. 35-42.

February 16 & 18, 2009

Week 6: **President's Day, No Class, February 16, 2009**
China: Confucius 孔子 (551-479 B.C.E.)
Readings: *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp.41-63.

February 23 & 25, 2009

Week 7: **Greece:** The Eliatics: Parmenides (fl. 500 B.C.E.) & Zeno (490-430 B.C.E.); The Pluralists: Empedocles (490-430 B.C.E.), Anaxagoras (500-428 B.C.E.) & The Atomists.
Readings: *Greek Philosophy*, pp. 43-54.

March 2 & 4, 2009

Week 8: **Greece:** The Sophists: Protagoras (490-420 B.C.E.) & Gorgias (487-376 B.C.E.); Socrates (469-399 B.C.E.)
Readings: *Greek Philosophy*, pp. 57-141.
China: Mozi 墨子 (479-381 B.C.E.)
Readings: *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 64-76.

March 9 & 11, 2009

Week 9: **Library Resource Center Visit, March 9, 2009**
Mid-Term Exam, March 11, 2009

March 16 & 18, 2009

Week 10: **Spring Break, No Classes**

March 23 & 25, 2009

Week 11: **Greece:** Plato (428-348 B.C.E.)
Readings: *Greek Philosophy*, pp. 142-282.

March 30 & April 1, 2009

Week 12: **China:** Developing Confucianism 1: Mengzi 孟子 (385-312. B.C.E.)
Readings: *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp.112-158.

April 6 & 8, 2009

Week 13: **China:** The Daoists: Laozi 老子 (6th-4th cent. B.C.E.) and Zhuangzi 莊子(fl. 4th cent. B.C.E.)
Readings: *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 77-111.

April 13 & 15, 2009

Week 14: **Greece:** Aristotle (383-322 B.C.E.)
Readings: *Greek Philosophy*, pp. 285-438.

April 20 & 22, 2009

Week 15: **China:** Developing Confucianism 2: Xunzi 荀子 (310-219? B.C.E.)
Readings: *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 159-183.

April 27 & 29, 2009 (Other Schools of Philosophy)

China: Preservation of Self 養生, Agriculturalists 農家, Yin/Yang 陰陽, Strategists 兵家, Logicians 辯者, Legalists 法家, and the Correlative Thought of the *Book of Changes* 周易.

Readings: *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, pp. 190-223, 318-325 .

Greece: Epicureanism of Epicurus (341-270 B.C.E.) and Stoicism of Zeno of Citium (331-262 B.C.E.).

Readings: None.

May 4 & 6, 2009

Week 17: **Review Comparison of East & West, their Past & Present**

May 11, 2009

Week 18: **Final Exam, May 12, 2009**