

UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM

SECTION III. INTEGRATIVE STUDIES - INTERDISCIPLINARY

1. COURSE NUMBER: **PHIL 308i** SEMESTER HOURS: **3**

COURSE TITLE: **Asian Religions: A Philosophical Approach**
Start Date: Summer 2005
Formerly: Asian Philosophy (Start Date: Fall 1996)
Retroactive: To Fall 1996
2. COURSE FORMAT: Lecture. Average class size: 30/60.
3. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students should be able to: (a) identify major classical Asian philosophical traditions and their continuing importance in the daily conduct and self-understanding of the peoples of Asia; (b) discuss the central philosophical concepts of major Asian philosophical traditions; (c) appreciate both the differences between Asian and western traditions, and areas of fundamental human unity across traditions; (d) understand the importance for these traditions of the lived historical and social contexts in which those traditions flourished and their sociological, political, and historical impact; and (e) explore the dynamic interactions of these traditions with the West.
4. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines three major areas of Asian philosophy: South Asia; East Asia; and origins of and developments in Buddhist traditions. Since it is not possible to offer a comprehensive overview of all important traditions in these areas, concentration will be on those traditions with continuing significant sociological, political, and literary influence. Emphasis is on classical traditions, since this provides a solid foundation upon which students are then able to pursue further independent readings in more recent developments. Furthermore, this emphasis permits an extended exploration of the interaction among contemporary economic, sociological and religious developments and classical traditions. The interaction between some of these traditions with the West will be explored at the end of the course after some basic knowledge of these traditions have been acquired.
5. REQUIRED READING: (A sample of readings, subject to change) Deutsch, *The Bhagavad Gita*; Deutsch, *Advaita Vedanta: A Philosophical Reconstruction*; Walpola, *What the Buddha Taught*; Suzuki, *An Introduction to Zen Buddhism*; Fingarette, *Confucius: The Secular as Sacred*; Watts, *Tao: The Watercourse Way*; Suler, *Contemporary Psychoanalysis and Eastern Thought*.
6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:
A varying combination of (a) and (b)
 - (a) Journal and/or papers
 - (b) Quizzes and/or exams
7. ADVANCED UCC COURSE(S): None

1/20/06