GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 11/30/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 12/14/2021

PHILOSOPHY 120 – ASIAN AND PACIFIC PHILOSOPHIES

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

PHIL 120 Asian and Pacific Philosophies 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours144-162 total hours

2. Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

This course examines major Asian and Pacific philosophies, with focus on metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical questions. Special attention is given to family and the just society, and alternative conceptions of the self, time, and reality are also explored. Asian Pacific thought is an alternative to that of the Occident. These differences manifest in the larger cultural and socio-political contexts of the respective peoples.

Students will emerge from this course with a greater understanding of the sources of their own fundamental beliefs.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Categorize the major Asian and Pacific philosophies
2. Evaluate and compare how each philosophy differs from one another
3. Analyze the continuities and discontinuities amongst various schools of thought
4. Determine those ideals, theories or assumptions that result in the intellectual grouping of certain philosophies as Asian Pacific
5. Compare different methodologies utilized amongst various belief systems, including distinguishing key techniques shared by various philosophies
6. Advocate for a favored view, and explain why that view is favored
7. Adapt and improve an existing world view by critically applying what is learned in this course

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

1. Introduction to Philosophy and philosophical inquiry in general; Western versus non-Western views
2. Hindu Systems - Religion versus Philosophy, Self and World, Knowledge and Reality, Change, Modern
3. Buddhist Philosophies - Suffering and Enlightenment, Mysticism as Truth, Zen, and Mediation as Truth-

Seeking

1. Chinese Philosophies - Confucianism and Justice, Family Values, Taoism, Neo-Confucianism,

Harmony and Mao Tse-Tung, Western influences

1. Filipinx Philosophies - Virtue Ethics, family values

f. Pacific Philosophies - Polynesian, Micronesian, Melanesian, Papuan - theoretical underpinnings of

metaphysical and ecological views

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lectures
2. Guest lecturers from other departments, such as History and EGSJ
3. Student collaboration to present solutions to a given question
4. Peer presentations
5. Textual analysis in class
6. Documentaries and films
7. Library visits and tutorials

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Reading assignments and class discussion

b. Participation in class projects such as group presentations on a topic such as collective understanding of how colonization affected indigenous thought

c. Quizzes on assigned material

d. Midterm and final exams entailing both objective and interpretive components

e. Term paper(s) and short essay(s) on topics such as “Which aspects of liberation philosophy persist in 21st Century post-colonialism?”

f. Special individual projects such as a presentation to the class tailored to each student’s area of interest within Asian and Pacific philosophy.

g. Instructors are encouraged to use modes of evaluation that are equitable and supportive, such as ungrading.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Reading and analysis of primary texts, such as portions of “The Analects”
2. Short answer questions about the adopted textbook to foster remembrance and understanding of course content such as Jain Philosophy and other heterodox Indian schools
3. Weekly Journal: Students will begin the semester answering straightforward questions, progress to answering more sophisticated application questions, ultimately ending the semester by formulating their own accounts of how Asian and Pacific philosophy has culminated in the rise of these philosophies in the US
4. Philosophic research on topics such as the concepts involved in and the emergence of ecology in the Pacific
5. Analytic short essays and argumentative compositions on the continuities and discontinuities within the philosophical thought of a region

f. Recording short presentations for the instructor on our learning management system

11. Representative Texts

a. Representative Texts:

Koller, John M., *Asian Philosophies, 7th edition*, New York, NY, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2018.

b. Supplementary Workbook and Texts

1) Li, Puqun, *A Guide to Asian Philosophy Classics*, Peterborough, Ontario, Broadview Press, 2012.

1. ZTC and OER are also options since many of these philosophies are ancient ones.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

a. Identify and describe three Asian and Pacific philosophies

b. Analyze the theoretical continuities and discontinuities amongst these philosophies

c. Evaluate how various trends have led to modern Asian and Pacific philosophies

d. Place herself within or externally to the Asian and Pacific philosophies learned in our course as they affect her life in El Cajon, and the greater San Diego area, by identifying connections to some ideological aspect(s) or theoretical assumptions of our local culture, politics, institutions, or even of our college itself