

Eastern Illinois University
Course Proposal
ENG 3110G/Philosophy 3110G, Cultural Foundations II

1. Catalog Description

- a) English 3110G/Philosophy 3110G
- b) Cultural Foundations II
- c) (3-0-3)
- d) S
- e) Cultural Foun II
- f) An in-depth look at three significant Eastern cultural foundations. The course examines societies and values by exploring primary texts in literature, philosophy, and religion.
- g) Prerequisite: English 1001G and English 1002G
- h) English 3110G/Philosophy 3110G is a writing-intensive course.

2. Student Learning Objectives

- (a) In successfully completing English 3110G/Philosophy 3110G, students will
- 1) focus on a specific group of values within the context of a diverse collection of texts which represent plural traditions, historical eras, and literary genres, and will be required to respond critically in class and in writing assignments (writing, speaking, critical thinking).
 - 2) assimilate, abstract, and articulate ideas from a series of different reading experiences (writing, speaking, critical thinking).
 - 3) explore the ways in which humansCindividually or in groupsCdetermine their needs and make choices about what to believe or reject. Because these texts are collected from a large body of multicultural and national literatures, students will become sensitive to a variety of questions concerning values, ethics, and traditions of various cultures. They will be provided with Aa critical understanding@ of Acultures and traditions . . . that are different from their own@ (citizenship).
 - 4) Write papers and essay exams throughout the semester (3000-4000 words) on the literary texts in the course (writing, speaking, critical thinking).
- (b) Additional student learning objectives. Students will:
- 1) explore the nature of intellectual and aesthetic matters related to the study of literature.
 - 2) develop an understanding of the relationships among the various genre of literature.
 - 3) consider the value of expression and creativity, especially in terms of literature and literary analysis.

3. Course Outline

ENG 3110G/PHI 3110G is divided into 15 units, to be distributed evenly during a 15-week/50-minute course (45 classes) and a 15-week/75-minute course (30 classes).

Cultural Foundations II is structured around three five-week segments, each introducing a distinctive set of Eastern cultural foundations by means of the study of significant primary texts. The ideas treated in each of these segments will be considered primarily in their own terms, but

also, the context having been established, in relation to each other and to parallel western models.

The first of these segments treats important aspects of the cultural foundations of India. The first week treats ancient Aryan Brahmanism, with readings taken from the Brahmanas, the Vedic Hymns, and the Upanishads. The second week treats Hinduism, as students read selections from the *Mahabharata* and learn of Sankara's thought and the Four Ends of Humanity. During the third week, the focus will be on Hinduism and the disciplines of janna, hatha and bhakti yoga, with readings from Kalidasa and *The Bhagavad Gita*. The fourth week treats Jainism and Buddhism, as students learn the basic doctrines of Jainism, Teravada Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism, and Ashoka. The final week will treat the modern legacy of Hinduism as evidenced in Rabindranath Tagore, *The Broken Nest*, and the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo.

The second segment, which introduced Chinese cultural foundations, will have five weekly parts and include studies in three major Chinese traditions as they are reflected in philosophy, religion, and literature. The focus of such study will be thematic, centering around the Confucian Ideal of Humanity, Self, and Society, as presented by Confucius and his followers; the Taoist "Way" to Enlightenment and Freedom, as reflected in works by Chuang-Tzu, Li-Po, and T'ao Ch'ien; and Buddhist notions of Mythology, History, and Philosophy as offered in works of Zen Buddhist Scripture and a variety of short literary works.

The final segment of English 3110G/Philosophy 3110G, treating Middle Eastern cultural foundations, will be divided into four parts. The first part examines two main periods of Arab civilization, Pre-Islam and the Dawn of Islam, focussing on substantial excerpts from the *Golden Odes* and *The Koran*. The next part turns to the Persian epic tradition as students read selections from Firdausi, *The Book of Kings*. Two weeks will explore middle-Eastern ideas regarding spiritualism, mysticism, Sufism and pragmatism, with short readings drawn from Rumi, Hafiz, Sa'di, Kabir, and *The Thousand and One Nights*. The final part will treat recent Islamic novels from Africa by Tayeb Salih and Naguib Mahfouz.

Unit 1: Five-week segment on Cultural Foundations of India

Week 1: Introduction to the Segment

Ancient Aryan Brahmanism

Excerpts from the Brahmanas and the Vedic Hymns

Excerpts from the Upanishads

Week 2: Hinduism

Selections from the *Mahabharata*

The Four Ends of Humanity: Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Mokasha

The thought of Sankara

Week 3: Hinduism and the Disciplines of Yoga

Kalidasa, *Shakuntala*

The development of janna and hatha yoga

The Bhagavad Gita and bhakti yoga

Week 4: Jainism and Buddhism

Basic doctrines of Jainism

Theravada Buddhism (The "Lesser Vehicle")

Mahayana Buddhism (The "Greater Vehicle")

The thought of Ashoka

Week 5: The Modern Legacy of Hinduism

Rabindranath Tagore, *The Broken Nest*
Sri Aurobindo, selected readings

Unit 2: Five-week segment on Chinese Cultural Foundations**Weeks 1-2: Confucianism: The Confucian Ideal of Humanity, Self, and Society**

Confucius, *The Analects*
Fingarette, *Confucius: The Secular as Sacred*
Win Tsit Chin, *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy*

Week 3: Taoism: The "Way" to Enlightenment and Freedom

Works by Chuang-Tzu, Li-Po, T'ao Ch'ien
Tao Te Ching
Win Tsit Chin, *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy*

Weeks 4-5: Zen Buddhism: Mythology, History, and Philosophy

Selections in E. Conze, ed., *Buddhist Scriptures*
Win Tsit Chin, *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy*

Unit 3: Five-week segment on Middle Eastern Cultural Foundations**Weeks 1-2: Introduction to the Segment**

Two Main Periods of Arab Civilization
Pre-Islam: Excerpts from the *Golden Odes* (Mu'allaqat)
The Dawn of Islam: Excerpts from *The Koran*

Week 3: The Persians and History: The Epic Tradition

Selections from Firdausi, *The Book of Kings (Shahnama)*

Week 4: Spiritualism, Mysticism, and Pragmatism in the Middle East

Excerpts from Rumi, Hafiz, Sa'di
Excerpts from *The Thousand and One Nights*
The Sufi Tradition: Kabir, selected poems and meditations

Week 5: Islam in Africa: Modern Developments

Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* (from Sudan)
Naguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley* (from Egypt)

4. Evaluation of student learning

a) achievement of student learning will be evaluated based on the following:

- 1) two or three papers, at least one with revision 50%
- 2) midterm 20%
- 3) comprehensive final exam 20%
- 4) oral presentations and projects 10%

b) English 3110G/Philosophy 3110G satisfies the criteria for a writing intensive course.

5. Rationale

a) English 3110G/Philosophy 3110G will be in the Humanities segment of the General Education program. In this course, students examine three significant non-western cultures in their Ahistorical, literary, philosophical, and religious dimensions. @ The

basis of instruction in this course will be the Ainterpretation and critical analysis@ of the essential texts of these cultures. The goal of this course is to provide students with the experience necessary for a Acritical understanding of languages, cultures, and traditions@ which are Adifferent from their own.@

- b) The prerequisites for English 3110G/Philosophy 3110G are English 1001G and English 1002G.
- c) This course is not similar to any other existing courses at EIU.
- d) This course is not used as a required or approved elective in any programs, majors, or minors.

6. Implementation:

- a) Members of the English and Philosophy departments whose interests include cross-cultural, multi-disciplinary, and other comparative studies will be assigned to teach English 3110G/Philosophy 3110G. Two instructors will teach the course jointly throughout the term, one from each department. These instructors will determine jointly the presentation of all course material, all examinations and paper assignments, and final grades.

b) Texts

India Segment

William Theodore de Bary, ed., *Sources of Indian Tradition*, Vol. I (NY: Colgate U.P., 1964)

The Bhagavad Gita, trans. Eknath Easwaran (Berkeley, CA: Nilgiri Press, 1985)

Kalidasa, *Shakuntala* (NY: Greenwood, 1965)

Rabindranath Tagore, *The Broken Nest* (NY: Asia Book Corp., 1983)

Sri Aurobindo, selected readings

China Segment

Confucius, *The Analects*, trans. Arthur Waley (NY: Random House/Vintage, 1938)

Confucius, *The Book of Songs*, trans. Arthur Waley (NY: Allen and Unwin, 1937)

E. Conze, ed., *Buddhist Scriptures* (NY: Penguin, 1959)

Suzuki, ed., *Texts of Zen/Ch'an Buddhism* (NY: Grove-Atltic, 1987)

Tao Te Ching, trans. Victor Mair, (NY: Bentom, 1990)

Fingarette, *Confucius: The Secular as Sacred* (Harper & Row, 1972)

Win Tsit Chin, *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy* (Princeton, NY: Princeton U.P., 963)

Middle Eastern Segment

James Kritzeck, *Anthology of Islamic Literature* (NY: a Mendian book - Penguin Group, 1964)

Arthur Jeffery, ed., *Islam: Muhammad and His Religion* (NY: Bobs-Merrill, 1958)

The Koran, trans. N. J. Dawood (Penguin, 1993)

Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* (Three Continent Press, 1993)

Naguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley* (Doubleday, 1966)

Bernard Lewis, *The Arabs in History* (NY: Harper, 1960)

- c. There will be no additional cost to students..
- d. The course will be first offered in Spring 2001.

7. Community College Transfer

There will be no community college transfer credit for this course.

8. Date approved by the department 3-27-00

9. Date approved by CAHCC 4-5-00

10. Date approved by the CAA 10-19-00

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