LS 161H.85: Introduction to Asian Humanities

Anthony Tribe

University of Montana - Missoula

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INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN HUMANITIES

Time: TR 11:10-12:30
Room: DHC 118

Instructor: Anthony Tribe
Office hours: 4:00-5:00pm MTh
Office: LA 152 (Phone: 243-6844)

Course Requirements

Attendance, reading, participation in discussion, quizzes, and three papers (5-6 pages); no mid-term exams or final exam. You should note that the nature of this course makes it particularly important that you attend class regularly, keep up with the assigned reading (60-80 pg/week), and take an active part in class discussion. Do not take this FIG unless you are able to do this.

** Attendance: absence from more than two class meetings will automatically lower your final grade by one letter.

** There will be an additional required meeting on Saturday evening, Oct. 5th, 5:30-10:00pm.

1st Paper Due: Sept. 30th
2nd Paper Due: Oct. 28th
3rd Paper Due: Dec. 17th

Required Books (available from the UC bookstore)

- Barbara Stoler Miller, tr., The Bhagavad-Gita (Bantam, 1986).
- Eliot Weinberger & Octavio Paz, Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei (Moyer Bell, 1987)
- Kenneth Rexroth, tr., One Hundred Poems from the Chinese (New Directions, 1971)
Readings should be completed by the date indicated

*S* Asterisk indicates item on reserve in the library

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**SECTION 1. South Asia: Early Texts—the Individual and the World**

| Sept. 3 | Introduction to Course |
| Sept. 5 | The Vedas I: The Gods of the Vedic Hymns |
| Sept. 10 | The Vedas II: Cosmogonic Speculation |
| Sept. 12 | The Upanishads: A Conversation with Death (The Kaṭhopaniṣad) |
| Sept. 17 | Buddhist Texts I: Introduction |
| Sept. 19 | Buddhist Texts II: What Brahma Didn’t Know & A Buddhist Genesis |
| Sept. 24 | Buddhist Texts III: The Buddha’s Last Days |
| Sept. 26 | Buddhist Texts IV: The Gotami Apadāna |

First Paper: Due Mon. Sept. 30th (10:00am)
SECTION 2. South Asia: The Epic Tradition—Fate and Happiness

Oct. 1  Mahābhārata I  *The Mahābhārata*, tr., Chakravarthi V. Narasimhan (reading to be assigned)
* “The Mahabharata” (Study Guide for the Peter Brooks’ Video Production)

Oct. 3  Mahābhārata II  *The Mahābhārata* (reading to be assigned)

Film Screening: “Mahabharata” (dir. Peter Brook): **Saturday, Oct 5th, 5:30-10:00pm**

Oct. 8  Mahābhārata III  *The Mahābhārata* (reading to be assigned)

Oct. 10 Mahābhārata IV  *The Mahābhārata* (reading to be assigned)

Oct. 15 Bhagavadgītā I  *The Bhagavad-Gita*, 21–69 (Chs. 1–6); also 1–13 (Intro.), 162–8 (Glossary of key terms - read now and refer back to later as you read the text).

Oct. 17 Bhagavadgītā II  *The Bhagavad-Gita*, 71–113 (Chs. 7–12)


Second Paper: Due Mon. Oct. 28th (10:00am)

SECTION 3. East Asia: Nature and Society

* T. R. Reid, “The Master Kung,” from *Confucius Lives Next Door.* (pp. 91–112)


Oct. 31 Confucius II  *The Analects*, 96–131 (Books IX-XIV)

Nov. 5 Holiday (Election Day)

Nov. 7 Confucius III  *The Analects*, 132–60 (Books XV-XX)
Nov. 12  Lao Tzu I  Tao Te Ching, 3–23 (Sections 1–17); also 130–40 for discussion of key terms
* Benjamin Hoff, The Tao of Pooh, x–xii, 1–7.
Nov. 14  Lao Tzu II  Tao Te Ching, 24–55 (Sections 18–44)
Nov. 19  Lao Tzu III  Tao Te Ching, 59–105 (Sections 45–81); see also 140–48, 155–61, for discussion of parallels between the Gītā and the Tao Te Ching.
Nov. 21  In-Class Debate  Prepare for Debate
Nov. 26  Asian Art Forms  To be assigned
Nov. 28  Holiday (Thanksgiving)  

SECTION 4. Chinese Poetry

Dec. 3  Translating Poetry  Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei
Dec. 5  Poems of Tu Fu  One Hundred Poems from the Chinese, 1–34
Dec. 10  Poems of Mei Yao-ch’en and Ou-yang Hsiu  One Hundred Poems from the Chinese, 35–62
Dec. 12  Poems of Su Tung-p’o & Li Ch’ing-chao  One Hundred Poems from the Chinese, 63–99

Third Paper: Due Tues. Dec. 17th (10:00am)

No Final Exam