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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)

- Kenneth Rexroth, tr., *One Hundred Poems from the Chinese* (New Directions, 1971)
SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Readings should be completed by the date indicated

* Asterisk indicates item on reserve in the library

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 Kathopanisad)

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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| 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-Gītā*, 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-Gītā*, 71–113 (Chs. 7–12)                              |
|        |                    | **Second Paper: Due Mon. Oct. 28th (10:00am)**                      |

## SECTION 3. East Asia: Nature and Society

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<td>* T. R. Reid, “The Master Kung,” from <em>Confucius Lives Next Door.</em> (pp. 91–112)</td>
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<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Confucius II</td>
<td><em>The Analects</em>, 96–131 (Books IX-XIV)</td>
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<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Holiday (Election Day)</td>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Confucius III</td>
<td><em>The Analects</em>, 132–60 (Books XV-XX)</td>
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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)

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**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