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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

Instructor: Anthony Tribe

Room: DHC 118

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)

- Chakravarthi V. Narasimhan, *The Mahābhārata* (New York, Columbia Press, 1998).
- Barbara Stoler Miller, tr., *The Bhagavad-Gita* (Bantam, 1986).
- D.C. Lau, tr., *Confucius: the Analects* (Penguin, 1979).
- Victor H. Mair, tr., *Tao Te Ching* (New York: Bantam Books, 1990).
- 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)

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	* Wendy O’Flaherty, <i>The Rig Veda</i> (Selections on Agni, Soma, Indra, Rudra, and Viṣṇu). * Richard Davis, in <i>Religions of India in Practice</i> , 5-10.
Sept. 10	The Vedas II: Cosmogonic Speculation	* Wendy O’Flaherty, <i>The Rig Veda</i> , (Selections on Creation). * Richard Davis, 10–12.
Sept. 12	The Upanishads: A Conversation with Death (The Kāṭhapaniṣad)	* “Kāṭha Upaniṣad,” from <i>Upanisads</i> , tr., Olivelle. * Richard Davis, 12–14.
Sept. 17	Buddhist Texts I: Introduction	* Richard Gombrich, <i>Theravada Buddhism</i> , 1–4, 60–86.
Sept. 19	Buddhist Texts II: What Brahma Didn’t Know & A Buddhist Genesis	* “Kevaddha Sutta,” from <i>Thus Have I Heard</i> , tr. Walshe. * “Aggañña Sutta,” from <i>Thus Have I Heard</i> .
Sept. 24	Buddhist Texts III: The Buddha’s Last Days	* “Mahāparinibbāna Sutta,” selections from <i>Thus Have I Heard</i> .
Sept. 26	Buddhist Texts IV: The Gotamī Apadāna	* “Gotamī’s Story,” tr., Jonathan S. Walters, in <i>Buddhism in Practice</i> , 118–38.

**First Paper: Due Mon.
Sept. 30th (10:00am)**

SECTION 2. South Asia: The Epic Tradition—Fate and Happiness

Oct. 1	Mahābhārata I	<i>The Mahābhārata</i> , tr., Chakravarthi V. Narasimhan (reading to be assigned) * “The Mahabharata” (Study Guide for the Peter Brooks’ Video Production)
Oct. 3	Mahābhārata II	<i>The Mahābhārata</i> (reading to be assigned)
Film Screening: “Mahabharata” (dir. Peter Brook): Saturday, Oct 5th, 5:30-10:00pm		
Oct. 8	Mahābhārata III	<i>The Mahābhārata</i> (reading to be assigned)
Oct. 10	Mahābhārata IV	<i>The Mahābhārata</i> (reading to be assigned)
Oct. 15	Bhagavadgītā I	<i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> , 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	<i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> , 71–113 (Chs. 7–12)
Oct. 22	Bhagavadgītā III	<i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> , 115–61 (Chs. 13–18)

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

SECTION 3. East Asia: Nature and Society

Oct. 24	Introduction	<i>The Analects</i> , 59–66 (Books I-II) * T. R. Reid, “The Master Kung,” from <i>Confucius Lives Next Door</i> . (pp. 91–112)
Oct. 29	Confucius I	<i>The Analects</i> , 67–95 (Books III-VIII)
Oct. 31	Confucius II	<i>The Analects</i> , 96–131 (Books IX-XIV)
Nov. 5	Holiday (Election Day)	
Nov. 7	Confucius III	<i>The Analects</i> , 132–60 (Books XV-XX)

Nov. 12	Lao Tzu I	<i>Tao Te Ching</i> , 3–23 (Sections 1–17); also 130–40 for discussion of key terms * Benjamin Hoff, <i>The Tao of Pooh</i> , x–xii, 1–7.
Nov. 14	Lao Tzu II	<i>Tao Te Ching</i> , 24–55 (Sections 18–44)
Nov. 19	Lao Tzu III	<i>Tao Te Ching</i> , 59–105 (Sections 45–81); see also 140–48, 155–61, for discussion of parallels between the <i>Gītā</i> and the <i>Tao Te Ching</i> .
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	<i>Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei</i>
Dec. 5	Poems of Tu Fu	<i>One Hundred Poems from the Chinese</i> , 1–34
Dec. 10	Poems of Mei Yao-ch' en and Ou-yang Hsiu	<i>One Hundred Poems from the Chinese</i> , 35–62
Dec. 12	Poems of Su Tung-p'o & Li Ch'ing-chao	<i>One Hundred Poems from the Chinese</i> , 63–99

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

No Final Exam