



Undergraduate Course Syllabus

PHL 246: Understanding Non-Western Philosophy

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

This course, which focuses on classics from non-Western traditions, is meant to enrich students' understanding of philosophical works that have shaped entire cultures. Selections are drawn from the literary, religious and philosophical works of Africa and western, southern and eastern Asia, giving students a greater appreciation of the contemporary world and basic philosophical issues. Global marker.

Course Outcomes

- Compare and contrast the fundamental differences of time and epistemology in non-Western philosophies
- Correlate the similarities of non-Western ways of thinking with Western philosophies
- Interpret how the seminal differences in familial structures, sociopolitical norms, and economic developments of non-Western cultures influenced fundamental philosophical divergences from Western philosophies
- Analyze the interconnectedness of non-Western philosophies with their respective cultural histories
- Assess the impact of non-Western philosophies on one's personal worldview and cultural awareness

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the Help Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy

Robert C. Solomon and Kathleen M. Higgins (Eds.)

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc.

Second Edition

2003

ISBN: 978-0-7425-1350-1

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	8	20	160
Philosophical Analyses	2	35	70
Journals	3	50	150
Short Paper	1	30	30
Final Project			
Milestone One	1	50	50
Milestone Two	1	100	100
Milestone Three	1	140	140
Final Project Submission	1	300	300
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Undergraduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2
C-	70–72	1.67
D+	67–69	1.33
D	60–66	1
F	0–59	0
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
IP	In Progress (past end of term)	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Ancient India: Recurrence and the One <i>From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy</i> , Chapter 9 1-1 Discussion: Brahman 1-2 Final Project Review 1-3 Journal: Self-Reflection, Part 1
2	Structure and Ordering: The Individual and Society in Buddhism and Chinese Thought <i>From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy</i> , Chapter 10 2-1 Discussion: Ethics and Places in the World 2-2 Final Project Milestone One: Paper Topic
3	The Ways of Nature: Japanese Thought <i>From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy</i> , Chapter 2 3-1 Discussion: The Role of Nature 3-2 Final Project Milestone Two: Outline and Bibliography
4	Spirits and Nature: American Indian and Latin American Philosophies <i>From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy</i> , Chapters 3 and 4 4-1 Discussion: Animism 4-2 Journal: Self-Reflection, Part 2 4-3 Short Paper: Differences in Culture
5	Sacred Scripture: Jewish Philosophy <i>From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy</i> , Chapter 6 5-1 Discussion: Jewish Thought and the Hebrew Scriptures 5-2 Final Project Milestone Three: Rough Draft

Module	Topics and Assignments
6	Dualism: Arabic and Persian Philosophies <i>From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy</i> , Chapters 5 and 7 6-1 Discussion: Dualism in Arabic and Persian Philosophy 6-2 Philosophical Analysis: Islamic Philosophy and Science 6-3 Final Project: Continue Work
7	Fundamental Reality: Metaphysics in African Philosophy <i>From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy</i> , Chapter 8 7-1 Discussion: Metaphysics and the African Worldview 7-2 Final Project Submission: Research Paper
8	The Life Force: Maori and Other Esoteric Philosophies <i>From Africa to Zen: An Invitation to World Philosophy</i> , Chapters 11 and 12 8-1 Discussion: The Life Force 8-2 Philosophical Analysis: Video on Maori Culture 8-3 Journal: Self-Reflection, Part 3

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically dropped from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008, Southern New Hampshire University does not discriminate on the basis of disability, including intellectual disability, in admission, treatment, or access to its programs or activities, nor does it discriminate in employment in its programs or activities.

The university prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. A disability is a condition or impairment that impacts a “major life activity” or “major bodily function.”

- **Major life activities** include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

- **Major bodily functions** include, but are not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, and digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions. Disabilities include physical, medical (including pregnancy), mental health, and learning needs.

At the beginning of each term, or as soon as you become aware of a disability or accessibility concern, we encourage you to contact the Online Accessibility Center (OAC) to discuss accommodations for which you may be qualified. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student and the OAC.

Note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until acceptable documentation of a disability and its impact is received and an accommodation letter has been processed. If you are unsure whether your condition qualifies as a disability or accessibility concern, please contact the OAC for determination.

Contact Information:

Online Accessibility Center

Phone: 866-305-9430

Email: oad@snhu.edu

For questions concerning support services, documentation guidelines, or general disability issues, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) website.

If you feel you have been denied appropriate disability-related accommodations, including appropriate auxiliary aids and services, you may file a grievance as described in the ADA/504 Grievance Policy found on the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

Academic Honesty Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).

Student Work Samples

For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please complete the [Student Work Sample Survey](#).