

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Course Outline Fall 2008
RELS 463.01 L01 ADVANCED TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY OF
RELIGION: IMMANENCE AND TRANSCENDENCE**

INSTRUCTOR Katrin Froese
CLASS TIME AND ROOM R 2:00pm – 4:45pm
OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS SS 1332 R 12:30pm – 2:00pm
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REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books that are available from the University of Calgary Bookstore are required reading:

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	<i>Faust</i>
Tr. Patrick Olivelle	<i>Upanishads</i>
Soren Kierkegaard	<i>Fear and Trembling</i>
Zhuangzi	<i>The Zhuangzi</i>

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE

This course will explore themes such as the relationship between immanence and transcendence, conceptions of authenticity, and the relationship between desire and non-attachment. Western and Eastern philosophical and religious works will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on generating a comparative perspective on these texts. We will also explore different cultural understandings of the relationship between philosophy and religion.

Objective The objective of the course is not only to familiarize students with these texts, but to develop a comparative approach to the study of philosophical and religious works. In addition, students will further their critical, analytical and writing skills.

Sample Themes: September 18 Introduction

Goethe's Faust Part I (Sept. 25—Oct. 2)

Themes: Striving
Modernity and tradition
Nature
Desire

Knowledge and disenchantment
The eternal feminine
Modernization and development
Spirituality

Upanishads (Oct.9-23)

Themes: Brahman and atman
Sacrifice
Knowledge and ignorance
Death
Appearance and Reality
Ethics
Relationship between good and evil

Kierkegaard-Fear and Trembling (Oct 30-Nov. 13)

Authenticity
Silence
Anxiety
Teleological suspension of the ethical
Absolute
Faith

Zhuangzi(Nov. 20-Dec.4)

Themes: Dao and De
Relativity
Skepticism
Sage
Wandering
Language

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class participation and seminar presentations	20%
First Paper <u>Due in class</u> (10 pages) - Thursday, October 30	40%
Second Paper <u>Due in class</u> (10-15 pages) - Thursday, December 4	40%

You may choose your own paper topics which are to focus on the texts examined in this course. One of the two papers submitted must be a comparison between Eastern and Western texts we have covered.

**There will be no Registrar scheduled Final Exam for this course.*

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Late papers will be marked down at a rate of 2% per day. Extensions will only be granted under exceptional circumstances and must be accompanied by proper documentation. (i.e. medical certificate, etc.). Computer breakdown is not a valid reason for an extension. Students are expected to make back-up copies of all their assignments.

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	96-100	A	85-95	A-	80-84
B+	77-79	B	74-76	B-	70-73
C+	67-69	C	64-66	C-	60-63
D+	55-59	D	50-55	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.