

**Syllabus for Fall '20, Philosophy 1106:
Non-“western” and Comparative Philosophy
Instructor: Christopher Rahlwes**

<p>“Know thyself” -Delphic maxim</p>	<p>“I doubt, therefore I think, therefore I am” -Descartes</p>	<p>“You are that” -<i>Chāndogya Upaniṣad</i></p>
<p>“Bhikkus, form is not-self ... feeling is not-self ... perception is not-self ... determinations are not-self... consciousness is not-self...” -<i>Anattalakkhana Sutta</i></p>	<p>“There is government, when the prince is prince, and the minister is minister, when the father is father, and the son is son.” -Confucius</p>	<p>“Now I have lost myself. Do you understand that?” -<i>The Zhuangzi</i></p>

Class time: Synchronic meeting Wednesday 4-6:30.

Note: Lectures will be recorded and posted the next day.

Hours for questions and concerns: Wednesday 1:30-3:30

E-mail: christopher.rahlwes@uconn.edu

(always include ‘1106’ in the subject if you send me an email)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is framed by the question: who am I? In engaging this question, we will explore reality, ethical commitments to individuals and societies, and knowing. We will first start with a discussion of what is “Western” and what is “Non-western”. With this ground, we will engage with the tradition leading up to Descartes and arising out of Descartes. This is what I will boardly call “Western.” Then, we will go through a quick exploration of Indian Buddhist and Brahmin’s stances, Chinese Confucian and Daoist’s stances, and then broadly non-Indian Buddhist stances. This is what I will boardly call “non-Western.” This engagement will focus on skills of analytic reasoning, exegesis, and comparison. There will be an emphasis on clearly, concisely, and persuasively communicating your ideas, position, and exegesis both in writing as well as in speaking.

COURSE GOALS:

- To communicate (orally and in writing) the ideas and arguments presented in the readings as well as your own.
- To gain an understanding of what makes a philosophy “Western” or “Non-western”.
- To gain a working understanding of ancient Indian and Chinese philosophical traditions and compare them with corollaries in the pre and post Cartesian tradition.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Content Quiz 1 (10%)
 - Short online quiz over “*Western*” *Philosophy, The Doubting Self, The Rational Self, Cogito*. You will have a week to complete it.
- Content Quiz 2 (10%)
 - Short online quiz over *Vedic and Brahmanical Philosophy, The Conscious Self, Ātman, Brahman*. You will have a week to complete it.

- Content Quiz 3 (10%)
 - Short online quiz over *Buddhist Philosophy, No-Self, Anātman, Anattā, Tāthagatagarbha* and *Jaina Philosophy*. You will have a week to complete it.
- Content Quiz 4 (10%)
 - Short online quiz over *Confucius vs. Daoist Conceptions of Self: rén vs. wújǐ/ sàng wǒ* You will have a week to complete it.
- Paper 1 (15%) 500 Words
 - This is a short essay where you should engage with at least two texts from the course.
- Paper 2 (15%) 500 Words
 - This is a short essay where you should engage with at least two texts from the course.
 - Must be different texts than the first short essay.
- Paper 3 (20%) 1500 Words
 - It is strongly encouraged that this paper is a revision of Paper 1 or Paper 2.
 - You must explore the key concept you discussed and provide an argument defining what it is and why these traditions agree or disagree on this concept.
 - You may expand the number of texts you wish to use for this paper.
- Discussion Board Assignments (10%)
 - Time will be given during class to post a critical analysis of an excerpt from that week's reading.

Letter grade cut-offs:

A 93%	C 73%
A- 90%	C- 70%
B+ 87%	D+ 67%
B 83%	D 63%
B- 80%	D- 60%
C+ 77%	F below 60%

These are cut-off points:
 decimals will not be rounded up.

POLICIES AND GENERAL NOTES:

1. **Disabilities:** *The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020, or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.*
2. **Academic Integrity:** *This course expects all students to act in accordance with the Guidelines for Academic Integrity at the University of Connecticut. Because questions of intellectual property are important to the field of this course, we will discuss academic honesty as a topic and not just a policy. If you have questions about academic integrity or intellectual property, you should consult with your instructor. Additionally, consult UConn's [guidelines for academic integrity](#).*
3. **Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence:** *The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate amorous relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate amorous relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Additionally, to protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report sexual assaults, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking*

involving a student that they witness or are told about to the Office of Institutional Equity. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help.

- a. **Etiquette:** Differing opinions and arguments are encouraged. You should never feel embarrassed or ashamed about your opinion, concern, or question, but you must put it forth in a respectful manner. **Do not mock someone for their opinion. Do not speak when someone else is speaking. Do not use slurs.**
4. **Copyright:** *My lectures, notes, handouts, and displays are protected by state common law and federal copyright law. They are my own original expression and I've recorded them prior or during my lecture in order to ensure that I obtain copyright protection. Students are authorized to take notes in my class; however, this authorization extends only to making one set of notes for your own personal use and no other use. I will inform you as to whether you are authorized to record my lectures at the beginning of each semester. If you are so authorized to record my lectures, you may not copy this recording or any other material, provide copies of either to anyone else, or make a commercial use of them without prior permission from me.*

READINGS:

- All readings will be posted on HuskyCT.
 - I will combine the readings into a single pdf for each week. The will be posted at least one week in advance.
- Each week on the schedule lists the compilation of readings for the week. **You will be expected to read 14-20 pages a week.** The required reading will always be on the primary source, which I will explain in the lectures. I will also try to provide recommend readings or podcasts, which will be a secondary or tertiary source.

Very Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic / Assigned Reading</u>
-------------	-------------	---------------------------------

Topic: "Western" Philosophy, The Doubting Self, The Rational Self, Cogito

1	9/2	Said, Selections from <i>Orientalism</i> Plato, Selections from the <i>Phaedrus</i> Aristotle, Selections from <i>Nichomachean Ethics</i> Ibn Sina (Avicenna), Selection from <i>al-Nafs V.7</i> Augustine, Selection from <i>De Vera Religione</i> St. Teresa of Avila, Selections from <i>El Castillo Interior</i>
2	9/9	Descartes, Selections from <i>Meditations on the First Philosophy</i> Locke, Selections <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> Hume, Selections from <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> Kant, Selections from <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>
3	9/16	Sartre, Selections from <i>Being and Nothingness</i> Fanon, Selections from <i>Black Skin, White Mask</i> Butler, Selections from <i>Giving an Account of Oneself</i> Cavarero, Selections from <i>Relating Narratives</i> Content Quiz 1

Topic: *Vedic and Brahmanical Philosophy, The Conscious Self, Ātman, Brahman*

4 9/23 *Ṛg Veda*, 10.97.11
Chāndogya Upaniṣad, 6.8.16.-6.16.3
Kaṭha Upaniṣad, Selections
Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad, Selections

5 9/30 *Bhagavadgītā*, Selections
Bharṭṛhari, Selections from *Vākyapadīya*
Gaudapada, Selections from *Māndūkya-kārika*
Śāṅkara, Selections from *Vedānta Sūtra Bhāṣya*

6 10/7 Patañjali and Vyasa, Selections from *Yogasūtrabhāṣya*
Íśvarakṛṣṇa, Selection from *Sāṃkhyakārikā*
Śāntiparvan of the *Mahābhārata*, Selections
Content Quiz 2

Topic: *Buddhist Philosophy, No-Self, Anātman, Anattā, Tāthagatagarbha*

7 10/14 *Anattalakkhaṇa Sutta*
Isidatta Sutta
Milindapañha, Selections
Buddhaghōṣa, Selections from *Visuddhimagga*

8 10/21 *Laṅkāvatāra Sūtra*, Selections
The Heart Sūtra, Selections
The Diamond Sūtra, Selections
Nāgārjuna, Selections from *Mūlamadhyamakakārika*
Vasubandhu, Sections from *Abhidharmakośabhāṣya*
Paper 1 is due

Topic: *Jaina Philosophy, Jīva vs Ajīva*

9 10/28 Umāsvami, Selections from *Tattvārthasūtra*
Kundakunda, Selections from *Samayasāra*
Hemachandra, Selections from *Yogaśāstrasvavṛtti*
Content Quiz 3

Topic: *Confucius vs. Daoist Conceptions of Self: rén vs. wújǐ/ sàng wǒ; li vs. xīn*

10 11/4 *Daode Ching*, Selections
Zhuangzi, Selections

11 11/11 *Analects*, Selections
Mengzi (Mencius), Selections
Xunzi, Selections

Topic: *Buddhist Philosophy outside of India, Tāthagatagarbha*

12 11/18 *The Platform Sutra*, Selections
Zhiyi and Guanding, Selections from *Móhē zhīgūān*
Dōgen, Selections from *Shōbōgenzō*
Paper 2 is due

13 11/25 **Fall/Thanksgiving Recess**

- 14 12/2 Milarepa, Selections from *The Hundred Thousand Songs of Milarepa*
The Collected Songs of Cold Mountain, Selections
The Mountain Poems of Stonehouse, Selections
- 15 12/14 Finals Week: **Paper 3's due date is TBD.**