



PHIL 3---: Indian Philosophy

Class Time: TBD

Class Location: TBD

Instructor: Chris Rahlwes

Email: TBD

How to reach me: Please drop by my open office hours (TBD) or email me to make an appointment (either in-person or online). Always include PHIL 3--- in the subject of your email for a quicker response. I will respond within 48 hours Monday-Friday.



Course Description:

In this course we look at pre-Medieval Indian philosophy. We will focus on the “orthodox” schools that support the authority of the *Vedas*, and the “heterodox” schools that reject the authority of the *Vedas*. More specifically, we will focus on Sāṃkhya, Yoga, and Vedānta for the orthodox schools. For the “heterodox” schools, we will focus on (i) early forms of Buddhism (Abhidharma) and the development of Buddhism into both Madhyamaka and (ii) Jainism. Our main topics will be metaphysics (esp. personal identity), ethics, epistemology, and soteriology. Further topics may include logic and philosophy of language. We will read from the *R̥g Veda*, the *Upaniṣads*, the *Pali Canon*, the *Bhagavad Gītā* and from the main texts of the various orthodox and heterodox schools (as well as some of their commentaries).

Course Goals:

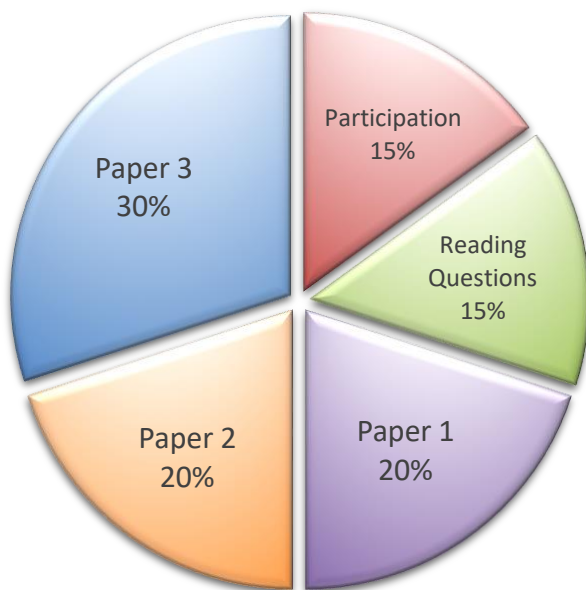
By the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and summarize the “orthodox” and “heterodox” schools of Indian philosophy with extreme care in separating the teachings of each school.
 2. Evaluate and analyze arguments made by these schools.
 3. Engage in interpretive debates surrounding issues in the texts covered.
 4. Advance positions based on these texts using the tools of philosophical argument.
 5. Develop a research project focusing on a classical Indian philosophical text, in which you carefully and with great precision explain a key philosophical principle in that text.
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Means of Evaluation

- **Participation (15%).** Participation will be measured through active class engagement as well as group questions and workshops.
- **Reading Questions (15%).** The Sunday before each class you are required to email two questions you have regarding the readings for the week (at least one question must be on the primary text). These will help guide the lecture throughout the week.
- **Paper 1 (20%) 4–6 Pages.** This paper focuses on your ability to explain a key philosophical principle clearly and precisely from one of our texts. Your grade is determined by your accuracy in demonstrating you understand the author’s position, the structure of your paper, and if your argument is compelling. You are allowed up to two revisions of this paper.
- **Paper 2 (20%) 4–6 Pages.** Same as Paper 1, but you must focus on a different tradition or text.
- **Paper 3 (30%) 8–10 Pages.** This paper is a revision of Paper 1 or Paper 2, in which you further develop your explanation, ideas, and/or argument. This paper is the culmination of the course and shows your ability in designing a research project that is philosophically fruitful. You will be asked to submit a brief prospectus for this paper.

Weighted Grade



Letter Grade Cutoffs:

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

Note: These are cut-off points: *decimals will not be rounded up.* Temporary grades: N (no basis for grade), I (incomplete grade), X (final assessment absence)

Required Materials:

- All course readings will be available online.
(When possible, I will include the readings as an audiobook as well.)
- You will need to bring material to write, take notes, and access the internet during class.
- You will need a word processor (such as [Google Docs](#) or [Microsoft Word](#)), a pdf reader (such as [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)), and a web browser.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

	Date	Topic/Readings	Assignments
Introduction			
Week 1		Introduction to the Course <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krishna, <i>Indian Philosophy: A Counter-Perspective</i> Ch. 1 	
Module 1: Early Brahmanical Philosophy			
Week 2		The Vedas and Early Upaniṣads <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad</i>, Chapter 3 • <i>R̥g Veda</i>, selections • Hock, “The Yājñavalkya Cycle in the <i>Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad</i>” 	Weekly Questions
Week 3		Early Upaniṣads (cont.) <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad</i>, Chapter 4 • <i>Chāndogya Upaniṣad</i>, Chapters 6 and 8 • Brereton, “<i>Tat Tvam Asi</i> in Context” <u>Recommended Reading</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindquist, “Gender at Janaka’s Court” 	Weekly Questions
Week 4		Middle Upaniṣads <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Māndukya Upaniṣad</i> • <i>Kaṭha Upaniṣad</i> • <i>Kena Upaniṣad</i> 	Weekly Questions
Week 5		Epic <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Bhagavad Gītā</i> • Matilal, “Moral Dilemmas: Insights from Indian Epics” 	Weekly Questions

Module 2: Early Buddhism and Jainism			
Week 6		<p>Buddhism</p> <p><u>Required Readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Holder, <i>Early Buddhist Discourse</i>, “General Introduction” • Discourse on the Noble Quest (Ariyapariyesana Sutta) • The Greater Discourse on Cause (<i>Mahānidāna Sutta</i>) • Questions of King Milinda (<i>Milindapañha</i>), selections 	Weekly Questions
Week 7		<p>Buddhism: Ignorance and the Unanswerable Questions</p> <p><u>Required Readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cūlamālunkya Sutta</i> • Discourse on the Parable of the Water Snake (<i>Alagaddūpama Sutta</i>) • Discourse to Vacchagotta on Fire (<i>Aggivacchagotta Sutta</i>) • The <i>Heart Sūtra</i> 	Weekly Questions
Week 8		<p>Jainism</p> <p><u>Required Readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tatvārtha Sūtra</i>, selections • <i>Bhagavatī Sūtra</i>, selections • Matilal, <i>The Central Philosophy of Jainism</i>, selections 	Paper 1 Due Weekly Questions
Module 3: Classical Indian Philosophy: Madhyamaka Buddhism			
Week 9		<p>The Rejection of Own Being</p> <p><u>Required Readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mūlamadhyamakakārikā</i>, first half • Garfield, “Madhyamaka, Nihilism, and the Emptiness of Emptiness” 	Weekly Questions

Week 10		The Two Truths and the Rejection of All Views <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mūlamadhyamakakārikā</i>, second half • Matilal, “Skepticism” 	Weekly Questions
Module 4: Classical Indian Philosophy: Brahmanism			
Week 11		Nyāya <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Nyāya Sūtra</i>, Chapters 1 and 2 • Matilal, <i>That Character of Logic in India</i>, selections 	Weekly Questions
Week 12		Yoga and Sāṃkhya <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Yoga Sūtra</i>, Chapters 1 and 3 • The <i>Sāṃkhya Kārikā</i>, selections 	Paper 2 Due Weekly Questions
Week 13		Advaita Vedānta <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Āgamaśāstra</i> • <i>Brahmasūtrabhāṣya</i> 1.1.1 with commentary • Taber, “Vedānta” 	Weekly Questions
Finals Week			Paper 3 Due

Resources Available to All Students: **TBD**

College is a challenging time in your life.

Here is a list of resources that can help you navigate your experience as a student at TBD. It is important to remember that you are not alone, and these resources are there for you when you need help to achieve your academic goals.