

PHI180 / PHI160 Asian Philosophy

Instructor: Akimasa Mitsuta

E-mail: mitsuta@obirin.ac.jp

Phone: 090-2473-5944

Office:

Semester: Spring, 2009

Meeting time:

By appointment on Tuesday before or after the class

DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to offer a basic understanding of Asian philosophy. The emphasis will be given on the differences of Asian philosophy from the Western philosophy.

Many Japanese young people today have only a limited knowledge of Asian intellectual tradition. The principles of Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism and Shinto will be reviewed and explained.

The influence of Chinese philosophy in the contemporary world where the western philosophy has predominantly influence will be discussed.

COURSE GOAL:

1. The students will be exposed to the basic materials of history and philosophy in Asia
2. The students will learn the difference of the west and the east.
3. The students will learn how to explain Asia in English to the westerners.

EVALUATION:

(1) Attendance/Class Participation----- 40%

(The students will be invited to participate in discussion in the class.

Active participation will be expected)

(2) Test-----30 %

(3) Essay-----30%

STUDY MATERIALS:

Materials will be given out in the class.

The students will be requested to read a variety of books. The books on the attached list are recommended to read.

SCHEDULE:

Week 1 (April 14)

Self-introduction of the instructor and the students

The students are expected to explain what they have studied on Asia and to state whether they have studied Japanese history in high school or not.

Explanation of the purpose and design of the course

Week 2 (April 21)

What is Asia?

Week 3 (April 28)

China in the world

Comprehension of the viewpoint of the Chinese of the world “Tian Xia (天下)

The concept of nation state to the Chinese

Views of the West on China

Week 4 (May 12)

Overview of Chinese society and history

It is necessary to know Chinese history in order to understand Chinese thoughts. There are more than 50 minorities in China today. Of them Han people played the central role forming the Chinese history. What is Han will be discussed.

Week 5 (May 19)

Chinese History to be continued.

Dawn of Chinese civilization:

Shang Dynasty, Chou Dynasty and Feudal Kingdoms

Han Dynasty

Week 6 (May 26)

Variety of Chinese Philosophy

Confucianism

Taoism

Hundreds of Philosophy

Week 7 (June 2)

Variety of Chinese Philosophy ---continued

Recent Movement: Establishment of Confucius Institutes in the world

Week 8 (June 9)

Buddhism and Christianity in China

Week 9 (June 16)

Japanese History and Philosophy:

Spirit of "Wa"

Shinto

Bushido

Week 10 (June 23)

Japanese History and Philosophy

Chinese influence: Interpretation of the Analects of Confucian

Development of Buddhism

Week 11 (June 30)

Meiji Restoration in Japan

Absorbing Western civilization

Week 12 (July 7)

Test

Korea and Southeast Asian Nations

Week 13 (July 14)

Comparison: Differences of the West, China and Japan

On time span

On family ties

On the relationship between government and people

Week 14 (July 21)

Asian Studies in the World

America: Harvard, Princeton, University of California

Britain: Oxford, Cambridge

France

Australia

Russia

Japan

China

Week 15 (July 28)

Submitting an essay