Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: PHIL 202

Course Title: Introduction to Eastern Philosophies and Religions

Number of: Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Examination of philosophy, religion, and belief systems of Eastern cultures, past and present. Students will study the various traditional "systems of thought" from India, China, Tibet and Japan. Cross-listed as RELI 202.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): None.

Text(s): Many good texts are available, such as the following:

Most current editions of the following:

Koller, John, & Patricia Koller. A Sourcebook in Asian Philosophy. Prentice Hall.

The Bhagavad-Gita. Suny Press.

The Principal Upanishads. Harper and Row.


The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna.

Lao Tzu. Tao Te Ching.


The Tibetan Book of the Dead.

Dhammapada.

Course Objectives:

• To understand Eastern philosophies and religions.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

• Identify the various philosophies of religions of East Asia noting similarities and differences.

• Describe and analyze the main ideas and structures of these religions and philosophies.

• Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of these religions and philosophies.
• Compare East Asian thought to Western philosophies and religions, noting similarities and differences.
• Critically analyze these systems of ideas and religions.
• Demonstrate knowledge and critical thinking by means of exams, research projects, essays and discussions.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):
• Vedic Indian Religion
• Yoga Sutra
• Upanishads
• Vedanta
• Buddhism – Theravada
• Mahayana
• Tibetan Buddhism
• Gandhi and Ramakrishna
• Chinese Buddhism
• Taoism in China
• Confucius
• Zen Buddhism, China and Japan
• Shinto
• Jainism
• Eastern Religions and Philosophies

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 30

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Anthony Alioto
Name __________________________ Signature __________________________

Date: January 13, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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