

**PHILOS/REL OF INDIA
PHI 3930/BD561
REL 3930/AR311**

Dr. Antonio T. de Nicolas
Fall 2003
ph. 461-1514

TR 10:50-12:05
BLDG. 10/1327

INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is an introduction to Indic philosophy from the Vedic tradition through Indic Buddhism. The objectives of this class are to introduce students to the history and basic philosophical traditions of Classical India and to train them in the ability to utilize primary sources in translation for critical analysis, read philosophical presuppositions and be able to distinguish epistemologies based on oral/audial or literary cultures.

PREDICTED OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to recognize the major Classical Indic philosophical traditions, place them in historical context, be able to recognize and express in written papers the philosophical foundation on which they stand, and offer analysis based upon methodological approaches within the discipline of epistemology. This course requires at least 3000 words of evaluated writing and partially fulfills the Gordon Rule Writing Requirement of the State of Florida.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF COURSE:

- attend classes
- read assigned sections
- participate in class discussions
- complete assignments (listed below) with passing scores

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION AND GRADING PRACTICES:

The methods of instruction shall be lecture and class discussion. The grading practices are as follows:

- Three written papers.....60%
- Communal presentation.....30
- Class attendance.....10

The grading scale is as follows: (on a 4.0 scale)

A=3.6-4.0; B= 2.6-3.5; C=2.0-2.5; D=1.6-1.9; F=below 1.6

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE AND PLAGIARISM: (see College Catalog for general policy.)

The professor reserves the right to fail any student who misses three or more classes.

Plagiarism shall not be tolerated and shall result in AT LEAST a failing grade for the course.

LEARNING, ACCESS, AND DISABILITIES:

Students experiencing difficulties that interfere with their learning should contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange assistance. Examples of these difficulties might include: ineffective study skills, preoccupation with emotional issues, or problems with stress management.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- de Nicolas, A.T. *Meditations through the Rg Veda*. Iuniverse. 2003
- de Nicolas, A.T. trans. *Avatara: The Humanization of Philosophy through the Bhagavad Gita*. Iuniverse.com, 2003
- Radhakrishnan and Moore, *A Sourcebook of Indian Philosophy*. Princeton, 1973
- de Nicolas, A.T. *Moksha Smith: Agni's Warrior-Sage* iuniverse.com 2002

WEEKS ONE AND TWO: A film presentation of neurobiology and how the brain works. This will help the student to keep as a background or mental image the discussion of philosophers and their truth and falsity value as we proceed with the course. Handouts will be also given in class to better understand the film presentation.

WEEKS THREE AND FOUR: Introduction to the Rig Veda (2.500 B.C.)

Text: *Meditations Through the Rg Veda*, de Nicolas, A.T.

The Languages of Asat, Sat, Yajna and Rita. (inaction and geometries, forms and action, images and sacrifice, movement).

WEEKS FIVE AND SIX: The Upanishads

Text: *A Sourcebook of Indian Philosophy*, Radhakrishnan and Moore

Also handouts and the Indic understanding of the self, language superimpositions etc.

The social stages, and the time to search for liberation (moksha).

WEEKS SEVEN, EIGHT AND NINE: *The Bhagavad Gita*, de Nicolas, A.T.

How to make decisions: The difference between morality and obedience to rules and the ability to make decisions.

The relation between the philosophical structure of the *Bhagavad Gita* and the research in contemporary neurobiology.

WEEKS TEN, ELEVEN, TWELVE: Buddhism, History, doctrines, practices.

Handouts in class. The origin of Buddhism in India. Buddha, the enlightenment (nirvana). Conditioning at birth. Suffering and the removal of suffering. Schools. The Practice of meditation.

The communities.

Weeks THIRTEEN, FOURTEEN, FIFTEEN: Class presentations.