

Course Description

PHI2070 | Introduction to Eastern Philosophy | 3.00 credits

This course explores the philosophical traditions of Asia, encompassing Hindu/Indian, Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist schools of thought, and includes works from the Western canon. Students will engage in critical analysis of foundational texts, examining the core principles and intellectual contributions of each philosophical system. Through comparative study, learners will develop a deeper understanding of how these philosophies have shaped human thought and influence contemporary ideas and practices.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of Eastern Philosophy by:

- 1. Analyzing and evaluating various concepts in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics as presented by Eastern philosophers.
- 2. Defining key vocabulary terms relating to Eastern philosophy, such as the concepts of karma, dharma, samsara, Brahma, Tao, yin, yang, and nirvana.
- 3. Distinguishing between various Eastern philosophers such as Confucius, Buddha, Mencius, and Krishna.

Competency 2: The student will demonstrate the application of critical thinking to Eastern Philosophy by:

- 1. Defining key vocabulary terms relating to critical thinking.
- 2. Distinguishing between various arguments presented by Eastern philosophers.
- 3. Applying various logical techniques to evaluate arguments presented by Eastern philosophers.

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences between Eastern and Western philosophy in areas such as metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics by:

- 1. Comparing and contrasting their approaches to philosophical issues within such topics.
- 2. Articulating theoretical similarities and differences between Eastern and Western philosophers within such topics.
- 3. Analyzing and evaluating similarities and differences between Eastern and Western philosophers within such tonics

Learning Outcomes:

- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning.
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society.

Updated: Fall 2025