

TENNESSEE CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
SYLLABUS OUTLINE

**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 1030**

Credit Hours: 3

Catalog Course Description:

A general introduction to the concepts, terms and principles of philosophy. The course will emphasize the concepts that humans have wondered about since ancient times and how they have sought to explain them. The philosophical method will be introduced.

How Program Site Will Be Incorporated into the Course:

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an introductory survey of various philosophy issues. We will study problems that have been pondered by some of the major thinkers in the history of Indian philosophy and consider the disputes that surround such issues as sexism, the caste system and the environment within the framework of Jainism, Hinduism and Buddhism. While we will emphasize some basic principles of philosophy, it is also assumed that aspects of the philosophy that we will study may contribute to a deeper self understanding.

Students will have an opportunity to experience Indian culture by living in north central India for a period of three weeks. The primary location of the program will be in Jaipur, India, located in the desert State of Rajasthan. Students will also visit Delhi for three nights. Students will not only have an opportunity to visit many of the historical, philosophical and religious locations, including the National Musuem, Taj Mahal, and the Keuladeo National Park, but also an AIDS clinic and a vocational program for street children.

All students will be required to participate in a faculty directed service learning project during the India program. **Service-Learning** is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach global responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Prerequisites: None

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Kessler, Gary E., *Voices of Wisdom*, (7th edition), Wadsworth Publishing Company

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis: modify for number of weeks

Week	Topic
1	Understanding philosophy through the many faces of Hinduism

- 2 Jainism and other voices in India
- 3 Buddhism and the Four Noble Truths

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of philosophy
- B. Discuss alternatives to traditional theism
- C. Understand the impact that philosophy has on who we are
- D. Identify distinguishing features of non-Western religions
- E. Analyze topics related to theory, history, religion and the social sciences
- F. Address alternative theories concerning reality, human nature, knowledge and values
- G. Discuss the people and periods central to the history of ideas in India
- H. Discuss alternatives to traditional theism

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

- 1. Discover alternative theories concerning reality, human nature, knowledge and values
- 2. Examine the philosophical history that has helped to structure Indian culture
- 3. Observe various social issues (sexism, the caste system and environmental devastation)
- 4. Interact with people who have a different philosophical reality

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Develop a greater understanding of world philosophies
2. Gain an appreciation for other cultures and traditions
3. Bring a new perspective to other courses of study
4. Interpret philosophies outside the scope of the Western Mainstream

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

This course will conclude with a comprehensive essay exam. In grading exams and writing assignments I will be looking for:

1. Correct understanding of the philosophy
2. Creative treatment in your application of the philosophy
3. Literacy in writing

The essay exam is worth 100 points.

B. Research Paper: Not applicable

C. Other Evaluation Methods

Ten short writing or cooperative learning projects will be given in class. The cooperative learning projects are worth 100 points.

One class project that will be service in nature. The service learning project is worth 100 points.

Students will be assessed on their class participation. All students will be expected to attend all scheduled field trips and engage in classroom discussion points. Class participation is worth 100 points.

D. Grading Scale: (This course is based on 400 points)

400-360 = A
359-320 =B
319-280 =C
279-240 =D
239 or below =F

VI. Policies

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no

unexcused absences permitted. Multiple unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

VII. Instructional Hours:

This course will consist of a minimum of 37.5 full hours of formal instruction.