



**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 Chinese philosophy and consider the disputes that surround such issues as sexism, the social structure and the environment within the framework of Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism and other philosophical schools of thought. 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 Chinese culture by living in China for a period of three weeks. The primary location of the program will be in Shanghai. Students will also visit Beijing. Students will have an opportunity to visit many of the historical, philosophical and religious locations, including the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, and the Jade Buddha Temple.

All students will be required to participate in a faculty directed service learning project during the China 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 Courses:**

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

**I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:**

Week 1	Understanding philosophy through the many faces of Chinese thought
Week 2	Confucianism
Week 3	Taoism
Week 4	Buddhism
Week 5	Other philosophical schools

**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 philosophies
- 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 China
- 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 Chinese culture
- 3. Observe various social issues (sexism, political/social structure 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. Other Evaluation Methods:**

Five short writing or cooperative learning projects will be given in class. The projects are worth 20 points each (for a total of 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.

C. 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.