**Classical Philosophy of India (CLAS 1140 S01) – Spring 2014**

**David Buchta, Department of Classics, Brown University**

**Location and Time:**

9:00-10:20 TR, Wilson Hall 106

**Office Hours:**

TTh10:45-11:45 in Wilbour Hall 005, or by appointment

**Introduction:**

India has a long and profound tradition of philosophy extending from the earliest Vedic texts to today. Topics include epistemology, the nature of the self, theories of karma and moral accountability, soteriology, the conflict between idealism and realism, the existence or non-existence of god or an ultimate reality, and the nature of human language. Philosophical approaches range from mystical speculation to hard-nosed analytic philosophy. Canonical texts such as the Upaniṣad, the *Bhagavadgītā*, the Buddhist *Tipiṭaka,* the *Yogasūtras*, etc. continued to exert an influence while being reinterpreted over generations in various schools of thought.

This course will offer an in-depth introduction to these traditions in pre-modernity. While the breadth of this material is extremely vast, the course is meant to acquaint students with some of the common and debated premises and terms of Indian philosophical discourse. After a brief examination of some of the earliest foundational texts, the course will survey most of the major schools of thought. With that background established, the last few weeks of the course will turn to topics debated between the schools: the nature of the self, agency, morality, and the nature of ultimate beatitude or liberation.

**Course Textbook:**

* Radhakrishnan and Moore, eds. *A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy*, Princeton.
* *Bhagavadgītā* – You are free to use a translation of your choice, but check with me if it is not one of the following recommended translations: Barbara Stoller Miller, Franklin Edgerton, Laurie Patton, Winthrop Sargeant
* Dasti and Bryant. *Free Will, Agency, and Selfhood in Indian Philosophy*
* Fort and Mumme, *Living Liberation in Hindu Thought*

The remaining course readings will be made available through Canvas, or links will be provided for content available on the internet.

**Assignments and Grading:**

* 15% Reading Responses: A choice of prompts will be distributed for each class. Students should write a very brief (1/2 page) response based on the reading assignments. Students may either submit these by email at least 30 minutes before class or submit in hard copy at the beginning of class.
* 10% Class Participation: Attendance and active engagement in class discussions. Please bring an extra copy of your reading responses to class, as sharing these can be a central part of class participation
* 30% Quizes: There will be two brief (15 minute) quizzes during the semester. These will focus on first-order learning, consisting of short answers and definitions. A prep sheet will be distributed the week before.
* 10% Class Presentation: During the last three weeks of class, students will make a brief presentation in class on a particular school’s take on a given topic. Details (time length and individual vs. group presentations) will depend upon course enrollment.
* 5% Abstract & Bibliography: A one paragraph summary of the intended final paper topic and thesis, accompanied by a list of at least 5 sources (at least 3 from outside of the class reading). Students are encouraged to schedule an office meeting with me beforehand to discuss paper topics.
* 30% Final Paper – A 10-15 page final paper on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. The paper may take a variety of approaches: an examination of the historical development of a philosophical issue, an argument for or against a particular philosophical position, a comparison of the treatment of a topic in two schools of thought (both Indian, or one Indian and one non-Indian), etc. Papers are due by **5PM on May 9th** (by email and in hardcopy delivered to my mailbox in MacFarlane or Wilbour Hall) but students are encourage to submit a rough draft by April 28th for feedback.

**Schedule:**

**Week 1:** Introduction – Defining Terms

**Week 2:** Bird’s Eye View of Indian Philosophy & Vedas & Upaniṣads

Readings: Mohanty, “Indian Philosophy: A Historical Overview”; Selections from the *Ṛgveda;* Selections from the Upaniṣads; “The First Sermon” of the Buddha; Selections from the *Bhagavadgītā*

**Week 3:** Epistemology

Readings: Mohanty, “Theory of Pramāṇa”; Gillon, “Logic in Classical Indian Philophy” (<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/logic-india/>); Passages 35-51 from Annambhaṭṭa’s *Tarkasaṅgraha;* Datta, “Postulation (Arthāpatti)”

**Week 4:** Buddhism & Jainism

Readings: Radhakrishnan and Moore pp. 250-292, 328-346; Hayes, “Buddhist Philosophy, Indian” (<http://www.rep.routledge.com/article/F001>); Webb, “Jain Philosophy” (<http://www.iep.utm.edu/jain/>)

**Week 5:** Mīmāṁsā (Th only)

Readings: Radhakrishnan and Moore, pp. 486-505; Edgerton, “Etymology and Interpretation”; D’Sa “Vedāpauruṣeyatvam and Vedaprāmāṇyam”

**Week 6:** Nyāya and Vaiśeṣika **Tuesday: First Quiz**

Readings: Dasti, “Nyāya” (<http://www.iep.utm.edu/nyaya/>); Radhakrishnan and Moore, pp. 356-379, 386-397; Annambhaṭṭa *Tarkasaṅgraha* 1-19

**Week 7:** Sāṅkhya and Yoga

Readings: Radhakrishnan and Moore, 424-452; Bryant translation of *Yogasūtras;* Additional reading TBD

**Week 8:** Vedānta

Readings: Radhakrishnan and Moore, 506-572; Ingalls, “Śaṅkara on the Question ‘Whose Is Avidyā’?”; Additional reading TBD

**Week 9:** Bhagavadgītā

Entire *Bhagavadgītā*

**Week 10:** Language **Tuesday: Second Quiz**

Readings: Cardona, “Philosophy of Language in India; Brough, “Some Indian Theories of Meaning”; Selections from Ānandardhana’s *Dhvanyāloka* or Mammaṭa’s *Kāvyaprakāśa*

**Week 11:** The Self, Agency, and Free Will **Paper Topics Due Tuesday**

Readings: Dasti and Bryant, Intro and Chs. 2, 5, 7, and any 2 other chapters.

**Week 12:** Ethics, Karma, and Dharma

Readings TBD

**Week 13:** Liberation

Readings: Yadav, “Negation, *Nirvāṇa,* and Nonsense”; Fort and Mumme: Introduction, Ch. 4, one of Chs. 1-3, one of Chs. 5-8, Conclusion

**Academic Integrity:**

Please be aware of and abide by the Principles of the Brown University Community:

<http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/documents/principles.pdf>

**Disability Assistance and Other Concerns:**

Brown University is deeply committed to making the study of Sanskrit available to anyone who is interested. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require academic accommodations for this class should feel free to discuss this with me directly or may speak with Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS) at 401-863-9588 to discuss the process for requesting accommodations.