

Florida International University
Spring 2011

REL 4311 – RELIGIOUS CLASSICS OF ASIA
PHH 3840 – INDIAN PHILOSOPHY
MW, 2-2.50, room TBA

Syllabus

Instructors:

Dr. Nathan Katz

DM 305A – katzn@fiu.edu - 305-348-3909

Samani Dr. Chaitanya Pragya

DM 306 – samanijfiu@gmail.com – 305-220-5339

During the spring 2011 semester, we will explore understandings of “self and liberation” in classic texts from the traditions of Theravada Buddhism, Jainism, Yoga, and Tibetan Mahayana Buddhism.

These specific texts will form the core of the course:

Thera- and Therigatha (Theravada Buddhism)

□cārāṅga (ch. 1) and Tattvārtha Sūtra (ch. 10) (Jainism)

Yoga Sūtra (by Patañjali, Hinduism)

Bar-do'i Thos-grol (by Padmasambhava, Tibetan Buddhism)

After preliminary considerations of culture and history, Dr. Katz will lead the seminar through the Theragatha and the Therigatha of Theravada Buddhism, Samani Dr. Chaitanya Pragya will teach the Jain texts, the □cārāṅga and the Tattvārtha Sūtra and the Hindu text, the Yoga Sūtra, and then Dr. Katz will lead the seminar on the Bar-do'i Thos-grol (Tibetan Book of the Dead).

Course requirements:

There will be objective midterm and final examinations, and an essay (due April 22) that compares any two of our seminar texts.

Each exam will count for 30% of the course grade, and the essay will count for 40%.

Required readings:

Theragatha and Therigatha (available on Blackboard)

□cārāṅga, chapter 1 (available on Blackboard)

Tattvārtha Sūtra, chapter 10 (available on Blackboard)

Chris Hartranft, trans, The Yoga Sūtra of Patanjali (in bookstore)

W. Y. Evans-Wentz, ed., The Tibetan Book of the Dead (in bookstore)

Recommended background reading (on reserve):

Theravada Buddhism

Nathan Katz, Buddhist Images of Human Perfection, pages 1-54

C.A.F. Rhys-Davids, Women Under Primitive Buddhism

Jainism

Helmuth Von Glasenapp, Jainism – An Indian Religion of Salvation

S. Gopalan, Outlines of Jainism

Jagdish Prasad Jain ‘Sadhak’, Fundamentals of Jainism

Yoga

S. B. Dasgupta, Yoga as Philosophy and Religion

Tibetan Buddhism

Sogyal Rinpoche, The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying

DATE	TOPIC	NOTES
M, 1-10	Introduction to course	
W, 1-12	Self and liberation	
M, 1-17	No class	MLK Day
W, 1-19	Buddhism background	
M, 1-24	Pali Buddhist texts	
W, 1-26	Theragatha	
M, 1-31	Theragatha	
W, 2-2	Therigatha	
M, 2-7	Jainism background	
W, 2-9	Jain texts	
M, 2-15	□cārāṅga	
W, 2-16	Tattvārtha Sūtra	
M, 2-21	Tattvārtha Sūtra	
W, 2-23	Midterm	
M, 2-28	Hinduism, 6 Darśana	
W, 3-2	Yoga philosophy	
M, 3-7	Yoga Sūtra	
W, 3-9	Yoga Sūtra	
M, 3-14	No class	Spring break
W, 3-16	No class	Spring break
M, 3-28	Mahayana Buddhism background	
W, 3-30	Padmasambhava and terma texts	

M, 4-4	Bar-do'l Thos-grol	
W, 4-6	Bar-do'l Thos-grol	
M, 4-11	Bar-do'l Thos-grol	
W, 4-13	Open	
M, 4-18	No class	Passover
W, 4-20	No class	Passover
F, 4-22	Essays due	
Exam week	Final exam	

Extra credit:

Students may attend any of the lectures or programs of the Program in the Study of Spirituality <spirituality.fiu.edu> or the Facebook page, and write a one or two page report/response to the event. The extra credit reports will be due two days after the event itself.

Turnitin:

All written work will be submitted on Turnitin.

Course reference number:

REL 4311 students use 3614177

PHH 3840 students use 3514181

Password: dharma