

Course Syllabus

1. Program of Study	Bachelor of Science Program Bachelor of Arts Program Bachelor of Business Administration Bachelor of Nursing Science Program
Faculty/Institute/College	Mahidol University International College
2. Course Code	ICHM 107
Course Title	Introduction to Asian Philosophy
3. Number of Credits	4 (Lecture/Lab/Independent study) (4-0-8)
4. Prerequisite(s)	None
5. Type of Course	General Education Course
6. Session/Academic Year	Second Trimester
7. Enrollment Cap	25 students

8. Course Description

Major movements of philosophical and religious thought within the history of Asia, particularly South and South-East Asia. Doctrinal thought, ethics, meditation, and practice in both Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. Exploration of other Asian philosophies that have historically had a close dialogue with Buddhist traditions, above all Hinduism and Brahmanism.

9. Course Objective(s)

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:

- 9.1 Knowledge of the doctrinal, ethical and practice aspects of the main schools of Buddhism.
- 9.2 Fundamental knowledge of other Asian philosophies and their relationship to Buddhism.

10. Course Outline

Week	Topics	Hours			Instructor
		Lec.	Lab		
1 and 2	Brahmanical Thought (as a background to the development of Buddhist thought): Vedic sacrifice, the philosophy of the Upanishads, and caste ideology.	8	0	16	TBA
3 and 4	Mainstream Buddhist Doctrine (as presented in the Pali Canon): The Four Noble Truths, Dependent Origination, and No-Self.	8	0	16	TBA
5 and 6	Buddhist Ethics: Buddhism as	8	0	16	TBA

	intention-based ethics and a comparison with Western ethical models such as Utilitarianism.				
7	Buddhist Meditation: vipassana, samatha, and the role of meditation in Buddhist thought.	4	0	8	TBA
8	Buddhist Practice: monastic versus lay practice, merit-making, relic worship.	4	0	8	TBA
9	Mahayana Buddhist Traditions: the Bodhisattva ideal and the concept of emptiness.	4	0	8	TBA
10	Major Hindu Traditions: especially Samkhya, Yoga, and Vedanta.	4	0	8	TBA
11	Modern Theravada Movements: for example Buddhadasa.	4	0	8	TBA
	Total	44	0	88	
Final Exam					

11. Teaching Methods

- 11.1 Lecture
- 11.2 Self-study
- 11.3 Group discussion and presentation

12. Instructional Media

- 12.1 Power-point presentations
- 12.2 Handouts
- 12.3 Other

13. Evaluation and Assessment of Student Achievement

Students will demonstrate their ability to:

- 13.1 Knowledge of the doctrinal, ethical and practice aspects of the main schools of Buddhism.
- 13.2 Fundamental knowledge of other Asian philosophies and their relationship to Buddhism.

Student achievement will be graded according to College and University standard using the symbols A, B+, B, C+, C, D+, D and F.

Students must have attended at least 80% of the total class hours of the course to receive a final grade.

Student achievement will be evaluated by means of:

Oral presentations	25%
Coursework essay	25%
Final exam	50%
Total	100%

14. Course Evaluation

- 14.1 Student achievement as indicated in number 13 above.
- 14.2 Student evaluation of course and instructor by means of questionnaire.

15. Reference(s)

TBA

16. Instructors

Dr Alexander Wynne and Dr Justin Meiland.

17. Course Coordinator

Dr Justin Meiland.