

Ancient Philosophy in South Asia Fall Semester 2019

Our aim in this tutorial will be to develop a general sense of the way that Ancient philosophers in South Asia dealt with questions about the relationship between mind and world, as well as questions about the existence or nonexistence of a subjectively enduring self. A tutorial like this must be far from exhaustive; but over the course of the semester, we will develop an overall sense of the philosophical traditions that emerged and flourished in South Asia between roughly the 5th Century BCE and the 6th Century CE. We will begin by reading two brief Upaniṣads, and we will explore the effects of these early texts on the philosophical traditions that emerged in South Asia. With this background in hand, we then turn to a more direct examination of the arguments that were developed by philosophers working within two of the classical darśanas: Nyāya and Yoga (with brief glances toward two other darśanas: Sāṃkhya and Mīmāṃsā). In the second half of the tutorial, we turn to Buddhist philosophers who denied the authority of the Vedas, as well as the existence of *ātman*, in ways that would challenge, extend, and transform the philosophical landscape in South Asia

Primary texts:

- *The Nyaya-sutra: Selections with Early Commentaries*, Dasti & Phillips (trans);
- *Upaniṣads*, Unknown, Easwaran (trans);
- *Bhagavadgītā*, Unknown, Barbara Stoler Miller (trans);
- Sthiramati's commentary on Vasubandhu's Summary of the Five Heaps, Engle (trans);
- *Viṃśatikā*, Vasubandhu, Kachru (trans);
- *Triṃśikā*, Vasubandhu, Connelly & Teng (trans);
- *Trisvabhāvanirdeśa*, authorship contested, Gold (trans);
- *Pramanavarttikasvavrtti* (apoha section), Dharmakīrti, Eltschinger et al (trans).

Secondary texts:

- Brian Black, *The Character of the Self in Ancient India: Priests, Kings, and Women in the early Upaniṣads*;
- Jessica Frazier, *Hindu Worldviews: Theories of Self, Ritual and Reality*;
- Irina Kuznetsova, Jonardon Ganeri, Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad (eds). *Hindu and Buddhist Ideas in Dialogue: Self and No-Self* (S&NS);
- Noa Ronkin, *Early Buddhist metaphysics*;
- Additional PDFs as necessary.

Requirements:

- Short weekly responses (specifying discussion questions);
- either **two conference papers** (3000 words) or **one paper to submit for publication**.

Schedule:

A wide range of philosophical traditions Pre-read: Jessica Frazier , <i>Hindu Worldviews: Theories of Self, Ritual & Reality</i>	
9/3 (60)	Kaṭha Upaniṣad; Māṇḍūkya Upaniṣad; Jonardon Ganeri , “Hidden in the cave”
9/10 (117)	Brian Black , The Character of the Self in Ancient India (Intro, Chs. 1 & 4) Matthew Kapstein , “Indra’s Search for the Self...”
9/17 (68)	Marzenna Jakubczak , “The problem of psychophysical agency in...Sāṃkhya and Yoga” Mikel Burley , “Self, Consciousness, and Liberation in Classical Sāṃkhya” (S&NS) Elisa Freschi , “Action, Desire and Subjectivity in Prābhākara Mīmāṃsā” (S&NS)
9/24 (72)	<i>Bhagavadgītā</i> (Intro; Translators intro; and Chs 1-6)
10/1 (80)	<i>Bhagavadgītā</i> (Chs 7-18)
10/8 (91)	Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad , “Self and memory” (S&NS) John Taber , “Uddyotakara’s Defense of a Self” (S&NS) Douglas Berger , “The Abode of Recognition” (S&NS)
10/15 (83)	<i>The Nyaya-sutra</i> (Chs. 1-4 of Dasti & Phillips)
10/22 (104)	<i>The Nyaya-sutra</i> (Chs. 5-9 of Dasti & Phillips)
A few waves of Buddhist replies	
10/29 (132)	Noa Ronkin , <i>Early Buddhist Metaphysics</i> (Chs. 1-3)
11/5 (112)	Noa Ronkin , <i>Early Buddhist Metaphysics</i> (Chs. 4-5, concluding thoughts)
11/12 (124)	Stiramati’s commentary on Vasubandhu’s <i>A Summary of the Five Heaps</i>
11/19 (46)	Vasubandhu , <i>Viṃśatikā</i> ; <i>Triṃśikā</i> ; Authorship contested , <i>Trisvabhāvanirdeśa</i> ; Roy Tzohar , “Imagine Being a Preta”
11/26 (76)	Jonathan Gold , “No Outside, No Inside”; Birgit Kellner & John Taber , “Studies in Yogācāra-Vijñānavāda idealism I”
12/3 (74)	Dharmakīrti, <i>Pramanavarttikasvavrtti</i> 24,16-45,20
12/10 (76)	John Dunne , “Key Features of Dharmakīrti’s Apoha Theory” Cat Prueitt , “Karmic Imprints, Exclusion, and the Creation of the Worlds...” Birgit Kellner , “Why Infer and not just Look?” (Optional)