Philosophies of India
Philosophy 145B • Fall 2015

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Required Materials
• An Introduction to Indian Philosophy by Bina Gupta; additional readings will be online.
• Turning Technologies model QT clicker. (The Turning NXT is compatible.)

Catalog Description: Survey of the major philosophical schools of Indian philosophic development. Emphasizing the Hindu and Buddhist traditions, with consideration given to competing notions of the self, consciousness, the origin of human suffering, and the possibility of transcendence.

This course satisfies GE Area C2: Humanities, as well as the intensive writing requirement.

Prerequisites: Passing score on the Writing Proficiency Exam.

The intensive writing requirement specifies that students will complete writing assignments totaling not less than 5000 words, which is in the range of 17-20 pages depending on formatting. In this course, this goal will be met with a combination of critical summaries (12 ½ pages total) and an in-class essay final (9 pages). The instructor will be working actively with students to assist them in sharpening their analytic skills and improving their writing styles.

Instructor’s Description: Philosophy, in the Indian tradition, is intensely practical. Insight into the nature of reality, or of human consciousness, is thought to have profound consequences for the person who gains it. Knowledge, in India, is not restricted to knowing that something is true, but includes gnosis, an immediate contact with a reality that is taken to lie beyond our ordinary, conventional awareness.

Our primary focus will be on philosophical systems associated with the Vedic (Hindu) and Buddhist traditions. Within the Vedic tradition, we will be concerned primarily with philosophical problems arising in connection with the Samkhya/Yoga and Vedanta philosophies; our concern with Buddhism will concentrate on its early development in India.
**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Familiarize students with the major schools of traditional Indian philosophy, enabling them to identify the major tenets of the schools of Vedanta, Samkhya-Yoga, and early Buddhism, with the views of some of the major contributors to each of these traditions, and to be able to describe areas in which these traditions agree and disagree
- Improve students’ abilities to critically assess complex philosophical argumentation
- Improve students’ abilities to develop a reasoned framework for their own worldview
- Enhance students’ composition skills
- Expose students to highly sophisticated non-western schools of philosophical thought

**COURSE GRADE**

The following cutoff scheme represents a guarantee of the maximum course total required for each letter grade. Target scores for the individual assignments are also provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Clickers</th>
<th>Summaries (x5)</th>
<th>Final</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>700</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>180</td>
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The instructor will be following the Philosophy Department’s grade definitions.

**Description of Requirements**

**Critical Summaries:** Students are asked to write five 650 word (2-3 page) critical summaries of the assigned reading. These will not only give a brief overview of current reading, or some interesting part of it, but will also give a concise critical analysis of it. The emphasis of these summaries will be on the critical examination of complex philosophical argumentation. Detailed comments will be given on all writing assignments to help students improve their skills in both analytic reasoning and composition on subsequent assignments. For an explanation of what is involved in philosophical writing, please see the Philosophy Department’s writing guidelines.

Summaries will be checked for originality by Turnitin.com. Summaries may be submitted up to 24 hours late with no penalty, and may be submitted 24-48 hours late for a 10% penalty (10 points). No credit will be given to summaries submitted to a dropbox more than 24 hours late, though notice that in most cases, you will have the option of submitting that summary to the next open dropbox with no penalty. Summaries are read in the order in which they are received.
Students who do not submit at least three summaries satisfying the suggested page length will receive a grade of F in the course. Students who submit only three summaries may fail as well, and even if they do not, they are very unlikely to receive a grade of C- or better.

It is your responsibility to insure that all of your summaries are properly submitted. It is a requirement of this course that you check to be sure you have received credit for each summary before the next one is due. Negligence in this regard can mean failing the course even though you have done all of the work. You cannot get credit for your summaries if you do not turn them in.

Makeup Summaries: Students will have the opportunity to submit two makeup summaries. If you submit more than five summaries, the best five scores will be used to calculate your course grade.

In-Class Quizzes: Students should expect a quiz to be given each day in class, beginning with the second class meeting. Quiz questions will normally be interspersed with the lecture and responses will be given via clicker. Some questions may cover a reading assignment and some may be review of a previous lecture; others may deal with online instruction material. Some questions may be aimed at polling the class regarding their philosophical views; for these, all answers will be scored as correct.

It is your responsibility to insure that you have a working clicker- your own- with you in class. There will be no makeups for quizzes missed either as a result of absence or a missing or malfunctioning clicker. In order to accommodate such problems, I will add a bonus equal to 15% of the total possible clicker points. This bonus will not allow your clicker score to exceed the maximum possible number of correct in-class clicks- i.e. it will not give you extra credit.

I will convert clicker points to course points using a conversion factor, which will be 300 / the total possible clicker points. Your course points will then be calculated by multiplying your clicker total by this conversion factor. For example: Suppose there are 500 possible clicker points. The conversion factor would be 300/500, or 0.6. That means each clicker point is worth 0.6 course points. Suppose Sally has 450 points (including her bonus). Sally will receive 270 points as her clicker score (450 x 0.6).

It is a requirement of this course that you register your clicker at our SacCT page by the end of the first week of classes. If you have not registered your clicker by the end of the second week, you will lose credit for any quizzes you have taken during the first two weeks, and you will not receive credit for any quizzes after that until your clicker is registered.

It is your responsibility to regularly check your clicker scores online to insure that your clicker has been properly registered and you are getting the appropriate credit for your clicker quizzes. Please notify me right away of any problem you encounter in registering your clicker. Failure to do so may result in your not getting credit for any affected clicker quizzes.

Final Exam: The exam will consist of three essay questions. Recommended length of response is 3 pages for each question. Essay topics will be drawn from a list handed
out in advance; at least one question will be mandatory, and chosen at random. You will be allowed to use two pages of notes; the required format for these will be described in a separate handout.

**Disability Accommodation:** If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to Services to Students with Disabilities, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

**Testing Center:** If you take your final exam in the testing center, please insure that it will be returned to the Philosophy Department before I have given my last final. If I do not receive your final in a timely manner you may be assigned a grade of WU. If the testing center will permit it, you may hand-carry your exam to the Philosophy Department in a sealed envelope. You may also be able to take your exam in the Philosophy Department. If we have the resources you need for your exam, you should consider doing this.

**Extra Credit/Participation:** Class participation is strongly encouraged and can earn you extra credit. You may participate by asking or answering questions in the classroom, or by coming to office hours. Students who participate regularly (e.g. during most class periods) will receive 15-20 points and those who contribute occasionally may expect 5-15. Normally there will be a 20 point maximum for this extra credit, but this limit may be extended in recognition of outstanding effort or exceptional mastery of the course material, particularly when this involves office hours discussion. You may also be offered extra credit of up to 15 points for participating in instructor evaluations. No other form of extra credit will be offered.

**Missed Exams:** If you are going to miss an exam, please contact me soon as possible. Unless there are verifiable extenuating circumstances, you will be expected to make up your exam within two weeks. There will be a penalty equal to 20% of the points possible on the exam unless you are able to document serious and compelling reasons for missing it. There are no exceptions to the requirement for documentation— not even for funerals.

**Withdrawal from the course:** Please be mindful of drop deadlines. After the end of the second week of classes, you will be asked to justify any request to withdraw, and if your explanation is not satisfactory your petition to drop will be denied.

**Incompletes** will be granted only when circumstances beyond a student’s control prevent them from completing the course. Normally there will not be more than a single assignment outstanding; otherwise, withdrawal is the appropriate remedy. An incomplete can only be granted if the student is passing the course. Absent emergency circumstances, arrangements for an incomplete must be made prior to the end of finals week. In all cases I will have to set up an incomplete contract which you must accept online at least 48 hours before grades are due.

**Communication:** Please check your Saclink email at least once each week. Please also check weekly for announcements on our SacCT page; it’s wise to check on Sundays to see if there are any announcements relevant to our work during the coming week.
**Laptop Use:** Laptops, tablets, and smart phones may not be used during lecture. Exceptions will be made only to accommodate disability.

**Academic Dishonesty:** This usually involves using unauthorized notes during an exam or plagiarism, which is presenting the work of someone else—whether copied or paraphrased—as one's own. When material is copied without use of quotation marks, plagiarism is presumed. Please understand that it is not enough simply to reword material you find online to avoid the charge of plagiarism. You are responsible for what you turn in; check to be sure all appropriate citations are included in your paper. Those who permit others to cheat are considered accomplices and thus guilty of plagiarism themselves. If unauthorized notes are found to be accessible to you during an exam, you will be presumed to be using them.

You must not use, or even handle, anyone else’s clicker after the start of lecture. This will be considered cheating.

Please review the [University's policies regarding academic dishonesty](#). The library also maintains a very useful page on plagiarism.

Anyone caught cheating will lose credit for the assignment on which they cheated, with no possibility of make-up. The minimum penalty will be 150 points, which is likely to drop the offender 1-2 letter grades in the course. If your clicker is used while you are not in attendance, the penalty will be 150 points against you as well as the person who uses your clicker on your behalf. Please be aware that I am required to report all cases of cheating to the University’s Office of Student Conduct, which may take further action.

**Outside Sources:** Students sometimes try to use material from outside sources on their course assignments, when they find that their notes are inadequate—perhaps because they were not attentive during lecture, did not understand the lecture and did not ask for help, did not do the required reading, or were simply absent. If you consult outside sources you should indicate the source of your material in your work. You are strongly advised to check these sources with me, as many (e.g. Wikipedia) are unreliable and therefore completely unsatisfactory for scholarly purposes. Students sometimes fail their assignments when they rely on such dubious sources.

I recommend, as a source for background information, the [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#). Articles in the IEP, unlike those in Wikipedia, are reviewed for accuracy by people who know something about the subject matter.