

**Course Objectives/Course Outline**  
**Spokane Community College**

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**Course Title:** Eastern Philosophy

**Prefix and Course Number:** PHIL 209

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**Course Learning Outcomes:**

**By the end of this course, a student should be able to:**

- Explain in speech or in writing what philosophy is and how the intellectual traditions of East Asia are philosophical.
- Explain in speech or in writing the Vedic, Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist philosophies.
- Explain the difference between the Vedic, Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist philosophies and the advantages and the disadvantages of these traditions.

**Course Outline:** (the course may include some or all of the below, but is not restricted to them):

- I. The Nature of Philosophy
  - A. Introduction
  - B. Definition of Philosophy
  - C. Eastern and Western Perspectives
  - D. Western Logic and Eastern Logic
- II. Indian Philosophy - Hinduism
  - A. Background
  - B. Vedic Hinduism
  - C. Brahmanic Hinduism
  - D. Social Duty (Dharma)
  - E. The Formal Systems (Darsanas)
  - F. Devotional Movements (Bhakti)
- III. Indian Philosophy - Buddhism
  - A. Background-Early Buddhism, Life of Buddha
  - B. Theravada Philosophy
  - C. Non-canonical Theravada Philosophy
  - D. Early Mahayana Philosophy
  - E. Later Mahayana Philosophy
  - F. Early Chinese Buddhist Philosophy
- IV. Chinese Philosophy - Confucianism
  - A. Background- Early Chinese Society and Confucius
  - B. The Secular as Sacred
  - C. Philosophy in the Five Classics
  - D. *The Analects*
  - E. Two Books – *The Great Learning/The Doctrine of the Mean*
  - F. Human Nature
  - G. Neo-Confucianism
- V. Chinese Philosophy – Taosim/Finding “the Way”
  - A. Background-Logic of Taoism
  - B. *The Tao Te Ching – Lao Tzu*
  - C. *Chuang Tzu*
  - D. The Mystical Way of Chuang Tzu
  - E. Later Philosophical Taoism
  - F. Religious Taosim
- VI. Chinese Philosophy - Buddhism
  - A. Background

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- B. Chinese Philosophical Schools
- VIII. Japanese Philosophy – Zen Buddhism
  - A. Philosophy in Zen Buddhist Thought