

ASIAN PHILOSOPHIES

EXAM SCHEDULE - MAY 21, 2019 IN C-365

TIME	who
1:00-1:30	James
1:30-2:00	Mikqun
2:00-2:30	Tangina
2:30-3:00	Lakeyre
3:00-3:30	Justin
3:30-4:00	Aura
4:00-4:30	Marco
4:30-5:00	Natalia
5:00-5:30	Nelson
5:30-6:00	Achille

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM

The oral exam will begin with some general questions, such as:

- What are the Upanisads?
- What is the relationship between Upanisads and Vedas?
- Why are rituals so important in the Vedas?
- What are the different definitions of “self” that Prajapati offers to Indra?
- Why is Arjuna so conflicted in Chapter 1 of the Gita?
- Summarize the key message of the Yoga of Knowledge (Chapter 2), Yoga of Works (Chapter 3), Yoga of (divine) Knowledge (Chapter 4), Yoga of Renunciation of Action (Chapter 5) and Yoga of Meditation (Chapter 6).
- What is the middle way in Buddhism? What are the four noble truths?
- What is the doctrine of dependent origination?
- What is the doctrine of no-self?
- Which topics did the Buddha not want to discuss? Why?
- How can we make sense of Buddha’s puzzling claim that it is false to say any of the following: (1) the enlightened person exists after death; (2) does not exist after death; (3) exists and does not exist after death; and (4) neither exists nor does not exist after death?
- What is Nagarjuna’s argument against the existence of change?
- What is Nagarjuna’s tretalemma? What is it for?
- What does Nagarjuna mean by “emptiness” and how does he argue for the claim that our common sense view of the world is empty?
- What is Aurobindo’s attitude toward what he calls a “philosophy of world-negation” by thinkers like the Buddha?

After the general questions, there will be some follow-up questions. I will ask you to pick one or two passages from the readings that can illustrate and give support to what you have said in response to the general questions. I will then ask you to comment and analyze these passages. So, be prepared to have a few passages from the readings that can lend support to your answers, and also be prepared to comment and analyze these passages. You may use your philosophical diary during the oral exam.