Study of the classics of Indian Philosophy

Instructor: Dr. HORIUCHI Toshio

Time: Winter Semester

Place: Graduate Building 208

Syllabus: Download

There are three main parts to this course. The first is reading translations (English etc.) of basic Indian philosophy and Buddhism texts and exploring their philosophical ideas. The second is to introduce students to the major works in these areas and to help them understand the basic concepts. The third is to examine the influence of Indian religious philosophy on China and East Asia. The course will provide students with a solid grounding in Indian philosophy based on reading the classics. The course will also introduce students to the latest research findings in China and abroad.

Syllabus

1. Lecture Topic (1): Classics of Indian Philosophy. Reading: Yao Weiqun, *Introduction to Indian Religion and Philosophy*. Question: What are the characteristics of Indian philosophy? Lecture Topic (2): Abhidharma philosophy (1). Readings: Vasubandhu’s *Abhidharmakośa*. Question: What are the characteristics of understanding "dharma" in Abhidharma philosophy?

2. Lecture Topic: Abhidharma Philosophy (2). Reading: Vasubandhu’s *Abhidharmakośa*. Question: What is the focus of the debate between the Sarvāstivāda and Sautrāntika?

3. Lecture Topic: Madhyamaka school (1). Readings: Nāgārjuna’s *Vigrahavyāvartanī*. Question: What is the difference between emptiness and nothingness?

4. Lecture Topic: Madhyamaka school (2). Readings: Nāgārjuna’s *Vigrahavyāvartanī*. Question: What are the characteristics of Nāgārjuna’s argument for emptiness?

5. Lecture Topic: Yogācāra (1). Readings: Vasubandhu’s *Viṃśikā* (*Twenty Verses*).

6. Lecture Topic: Yogācāra (2). Readings: Vasubandhu’s *Viṃśikā* (*Twenty Verses*). Question: What is the significance of the concept of "special transformation of the personal continuity" in the history of thought?

7. Lecture Topic: Indian logic. Readings: Gautama’s *Nyāyasūtra*. Questions: What is *pramāṇa*? What are the characteristics of the syllogism of the Nyāya school?

8 Lecture Topic: Buddhist logic. Readings: *Tarkabhāṣā* (*The Language of Logic*). Questions: What are the arguments of the Buddhist logicians’ critique of other schools of *pramāṇa* theory?