

## Philosophy 330: Seminar in the History of Philosophy: Nāgārjuna

Spring 2010

Th 3:00-5:00 PM, Dewey 104

Jay L Garfield, Dewey Front Parlor, Office Hours T, Th 1:30-3:00 or by appointment

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Required Texts (available at Grécourt Bookstore):

Tsong khapa, *Ocean of Reasoning: A Great Commentary on Nāgārjuna's Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*

Westerhoff, J., *Nāgārjuna's Madhyamaka*

Westerhoff, J. *Dispeller of Disputes: Nāgārjuna's Vīgrahavyāvartanī*

Loizzo, J., *Nāgārjuna's Reason Sixty (Yuktiśaṣṭika) with Candrakīrti's Commentary (Yuktiśaṣṭikavṛtti)*

Brunnholz, K., *Nāgārjuna's In Praise of the Dharmadhātu*

This seminar will address three of Nāgārjuna's principal philosophical texts in which he develops his distinctive Madhyamaka view, each with a commentary (one Tibetan, one Indian and one contemporary). The goal will be to understand Nāgārjuna's own philosophical system and his methodology, as well as to learn how to read his texts through the commentarial tradition. We then turn to a disputed text, one whose attribution to Nāgārjuna is contentious, and will develop a reading of that text and an important Tibetan commentary, considering what might lead us to ascribe the text to Nāgārjuna, and what might militate against this attribution.

**Students are expected to attend all seminar meetings, to complete all assigned reading prior to class meetings; to participate in class discussions to contribute to online discussions on Moodle about the material assigned in class (a first contribution is required each week no later than Tuesday midnight, but conversation can certainly begin earlier, and can certainly go right up to 12:59 PM Thursday); to write six short (approx 2 pp) papers during the first half of the term, each on any topic relevant to the reading (papers must be posted by Tuesday midnight, and students are encouraged to comment on each other's) and one final paper (approx 10 pp); and to give one oral seminar presentation.**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

<b>Short papers:</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Seminar report:</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Class participation:</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Moodle participation:</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Final paper:</b>	<b>40%</b>

**Schedule of topics, readings and written work**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Written Work</b>
1/28	Introduction	Westerhoff 1-4	
2/4	Dependent Arising	<i>Ocean</i> PE, HV, I Westerhoff 5	Paper 1
2/11	Motion and Change	<i>Ocean</i> II Westerhoff 6	Paper 2
2/18	The Self	<i>Ocean</i> III-IV, VI, IX-X Westerhoff 7	Paper 3
2/25	Reality	<i>Ocean</i> XIII, XV, XVIII, XIX	Paper 4
3/4	The Two Truths	<i>Ocean</i> XXIV, XXV	Paper 5
3/11	<i>Vigrahavyāvartanī</i> Objections	Intro, <i>Vigrahavyāvartanī</i> I-XX,	Paper 6
3/25	<i>Vigrahavyāvartanī</i> Epistemology	<i>Vigrahavyāvartanī</i> XXI-LI Westerhoff 8	
4/1	<i>Vigrahavyāvartanī</i> Language, Ontology	<i>Vigrahavyāvartanī</i> LII-LXX Westerhoff 9	
4/8	<i>Yuktiṣaṣṭika</i>	Intro to 60 and <i>Yuktiṣaṣṭika</i> root text	
4/15	<i>Yuktiṣaṣṭika</i> Commentary	<i>Yuktiṣaṣṭikavṛtti</i> Westerhoff 10	
4/22	The <i>stava</i>	<i>Dharmadhātustava</i>	
4/29	The <i>stava</i> Commentary	<i>Dharmadhātustava</i> Commentary by 3d Karmapa	
5/7			Final Paper Due