

## Topics for the First Paper on Buddhism

PHIL 100W: Introduction to Philosophy

Spring 2008

Instructor: Sun Yu

### Topics

1. What kind of ignorance is the root condition of *dukkha* in Buddhism?
2. The core of the Buddha's enlightenment was his insight into *interdependent arising* as the true nature of existence. What does this term mean? How would you argue for the truth of this insight?
3. According to the Buddhist philosophy, forgetting the self is simply emptying oneself of the false construction of inherent selfhood. And this makes possible authentic encounter with others, thereby authenticating one's own existence. What is the connection between forgetting the self and authentic existence?
4. Explain how interdependent arising and the Middle Way are related one another. Do you agree?
5. Explain what are *samsara* and nirvana. Are they different or the same?

### Guideline for Submission

Due **Tuesday, February 12, 2008.**

You are expected to choose one topic from the five listed above, and bring three copies of your draft (and three copies of **Peer-Review** on the D2L course site) to the class on Tuesday, February 12.

Your paper needs to be (1) 3-4 page long, (2) double-spaced, (3) 12 font, (4) 1" margin on all sides, (5) paginated, (6) no cover sheet (i.e. Title and name on page 1), and (7) no typos or grammatical mistakes.

Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy on the syllabus, and read "**Plagiarism: what it is and how to avoid it**" on the D2L course site.

The draft of your paper along with three peer-evaluations will constitute 5% of your final grade.