

Book Review Information

Philosophy 312: Oriental Philosophy

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1 Book Reviews

The book review consists of your considered answers to the questions found in the “Book Review Questions” section below. The book you choose to review should reflect an area in which you are interested and should be non-academic in nature.

One reason for choosing a popular book is to demonstrate that the philosophical concepts of this philosophy course are influential in popular works in psychology, sociology, political science, and religion. The most important parts of the review are the list of the significant ideas drawn from the book and the passage you choose as an insight into the author’s thoughts.

Your writing should be a helpful, concrete, specific, and practical description of the contents of the book rather than an abstract summary statement of general import. Examples of reviews will be discussed in class. A few suggested works are listed in a bibliography of the course syllabus. Other books will be suggested in class.

The book review is an optional assignment and may be substituted for a test grade. The deadline for signing up for a review is February 26, 2007. The grade achieved for the review is based on (1) your written responses to the “Book Review Questions” below, (2) a short presentation to the class of the significant ideas drawn from the book and consequent discussion, and (3) your post of the review on the *mwforum* Message Board.

2 Book Review Question Format

Download the form from <http://philosophy.lander.edu/oriental/review.html> and fill it out in a text editor or word processing program (such as Microsoft Office). Copy the text of the review and paste the text on the *mwforum* Message Board.

2.1 Bibliographical Data

(include title and author)

2.2 Background Information

1. Who is the author? (What are his nationality and origin? When did the author write? Check standard reference books or the book jacket.)
2. What other work has the author done?
3. What is the author's reputation?
4. Are there any important or enlightening circumstances connected with the composition of this work?

2.3 Subject Matter of the Book

1. What kind of book is it? (Is it fiction, history, popular psychology, textbook, technical?)
2. What is the subject of the book?
3. What material or supporting subjects does it treat?
4. What is the tenor of the book—the author's basic interpretation of the material or perspective taken?

2.4 Method of Organization

1. Summarize in your own words the table of contents.
2. What are the tone and style of the book? (What kind of audience is being addressed? Does the author give interesting facts or analyses?)
3. State four to ten main ideas of the book.
4. Select and quote one short passage as an example of the author's insight.