

SunHee Kim Gertz  
English 254  
Spring 2001

English House; Office 2; 793-7142  
Office Hours: Fridays, 10AM-1PM  
Meeting Times: Mondays--2:25-5:25

*Still Spaces: Contemplative Practice in the Classroom*

This course aims to explore and gain experience of contemplative practices as they have evolved in both European and Asian cultures. In addition to reading and writing about key texts that engage the "still space," outside the classroom, we will participate in a yoga course for seven weeks. The concepts of *Ki* (centeredness) and *tao* (the way) will be probed through the tools of the metaphor and the narrative. This course is cross-listed in Asian Studies and Comparative Literature, both because they compare western European with Asian literature and thought.

*Required Reading:*

--*In the English Office: Golub, The Big Cut*

--*In the Bookstore: Basho, Narrow Road to the Interior; Boethius, Consolation of Philosophy; Dogen, Moon in a Dewdrop; Donne, The Major Works; Meister Eckhart, Writings; Gallacher, ed., The Cloud of Unknowing; Glassman, Instructions to the Cook; Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching; More, Three Early Modern Utopias.*

*Required Work:* CLASSROOM DISCUSSION, WEEKLY WRITING ASSIGNMENTS, ONE PRESENTATION, TWO PAPERS, 7-WEEK PARTICIPATION IN A CLARK YOGA COURSE, AND ATTENDANCE AT SPECIAL LECTURES.

*Recommended Work:* KEEPING A JOURNAL

--> *Please note:* if you would like additional reading, please do not hesitate to come see me.

SCHEDULE:

Week I: Introduction

1/22 6:00-7:15 pm, Grace Conference Room, University Center: Yoga

---

Week II: *The Big Cut*

1/29 Please note: the author, Aaron Richard Golub, will be with us to discuss the novel.  
6:00-7:15 pm, Grace Conference Room, University Center: Yoga

---

Week III: Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*

2/5 6:00-7:15 pm, Grace Conference Room, University Center: Yoga

---

Week IV: Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*

2/12 6:00-7:15 pm, Grace Conference Room, University Center: Yoga

---

Week V: Basho, *Narrow Road to the Interior*

2/19 6:00-7:15 pm, Grace Conference Room, University Center: Yoga

---

Week VI: Meister Eckhart, *Writings* (selections TBA)

2/26 6:00-7:15 pm, Grace Conference Room, University Center: Yoga

---

SPRING BREAK

---

Week VII: Dogen, *Moon in a Dewdrop*  
3/12 6:00-7:15 pm, Grace Conference Room, University Center: Yoga

---

Week VIII: More, *Utopia*  
3/19 PAPER I DUE

---

Week IX: Zen Meditation with Melissa Blacker  
3/26

---

Week X: Donne, *The Major Works* (selections TBA)  
4/2

---

Week XI: Gallacher, ed., *Cloud of Unknowing*  
4/9

---

Week XII: Donne, *The Major Works* (selections TBA)  
4/16

---

Week XIII: Glassman, *Instructions to the Cook*  
4/23

---

Week XIV: PRESENTATIONS  
4/30 PAPER II DUE

---

NOTES:

Your Weekly Writing Assignments will summarize important aspects of the narratives under inspection for the week, while keeping to ONE PAGE, double-spaced and typewritten.

The Journal should not be viewed as an exercise in recording what you've done, nor should you consider it your intimate diary. Consider it a conversational partner, and probe your reactions to our texts, to yoga, to the probably somewhat difficult attempt to find the still space in your hopefully enjoyable, but also at times undoubtedly stressful, life as a student.

Papers

All Paper work that is submitted must be typed and double-spaced (corrections in ink are acceptable). Please do not submit title pages.

*Papers* should follow the MLA Handbook guidelines for footnotes and bibliography. Your papers should be about 10-12 pages long. Before your presentation and Paper II are due, you will have your first paper returned to you with feedback.

*Paper I* should focus in on some text we have read (or one of your own choosing, see below) in terms of our course theme "the still space." You need not yet consult secondary sources for this paper.

*Paper II* should build upon *Paper I*. In addition, for *Paper II*, you will need to consult secondary sources (see below).

PLEASE NOTE: If you choose to submit a creative work for Paper I and Paper II, then what will be absolutely critical is to append DETAILED endnotes or footnotes that relate aspects of texts we have read in class to your creative work. It is essential that these notes be thorough.

*Your Presentation* should take into account your first paper, my feedback, and your own further thoughts on: practice, theory, narrative, and metaphor. You should keep your presentation to about 10 minutes. *The entire seminar should participate in discussion after presentations.*

**Also please note:**

--If you choose to write on a text we have not discussed in class, you need to consult with me first.

--Since Goddard does not have an extensive humanities collection, I require only 5 secondary sources in total for your papers (beyond the texts used in class). *Be prudent, and research early; you may have to use Interlibrary Loan or Holy Cross' library.*

*Grade Breakdown*

The Final Grade will be evaluated as follows:

<u>Class Attendance</u>	(Attendance, Deadlines, Yoga Classes)	30%
<u>Class Participation</u>	(Discussion, Writing Assignments)	40%
<u>Conceptual Work</u>	(Papers I and II)	30%

An Improvement Factor will be calculated into your final grade should Paper II improve over Paper I.

*Grading Scale*

A	95-100
B	88-94
C	75-87
D	65-74
F	below 65