

# The History of Philosophy: West and East Part II

David Brahinsky

## Course Information

Wednesdays from 1:30–3:30 p.m. for six weeks beginning March 6 through April 17 (no class 3/13).

**HYBRID - LECTURE/DISCUSSION - UNLIMITED**

## Course Description

This six-week course embarks on an expansive philosophical journey beginning in ancient Greece with Pythagoras, known for his mathematical and metaphysical insights. It explores the hedonism of Epicureans, the virtue ethics of Stoics, the asceticism of Cynics, and the skeptical inquiries of Skeptics.

The course then travels into the Middle Ages, introducing the profound philosophies of Jewish thinker Maimonides and the influential Muslim scholar Ibn Sina. As it progresses, the spotlight turns to modern philosophers, from the social contract theories of Hobbes and Rousseau to Hegel's dialectical approach and Marx's revolutionary ideas.

Continuing forward, the course explores Nietzsche's existentialism and the pragmatism of Charles Sanders Peirce until it finally bridges the philosophical traditions of the East and West, concluding with Master Kung, or Confucius, whose ethical philosophy profoundly influenced Eastern thought.

Though this course picks up where "Highlights in the History of Philosophy" from Spring 2023 left off, anyone is welcome to attend and enjoy this course.

## Course Schedule

Weeks	Topics
Week One	<b>Early Greek Philosophy:</b> Pythagorus, Epicureans, Stoics, Sceptics, Cynics
Week Two	<b>Medieval Jewish and Islamic Philosophy</b> Maimonides, Ibn Sina (Avicenna)
Week Three	<b>Early Enlightenment European Philosophy</b> Hobbes, Rousseau
Week Four	<b>19th Century German Philosophy:</b> Hegel, Marx
Week Five	<b>Existentialism and Pragmatism:</b> Nietzsche, Pierce
Week Six	<b>Origin of Totalitarianism</b> Hannah Arendt's Philosophy of the Origin of Totalitarianism

### Leader

David Brahinsky has a PhD from Binghamton University and has been teaching philosophy, comparative religion, and humanities since 1969. He currently teaches full-time at Bucks County Community College, and this is his third course at Evergreen Forum (the first being The History of Folk Music and the second, Highlights in the History of Philosophy, West and East, Part I).