

Socrates and the Buddha

Ancient Philosophies in Conversation

Wednesdays 10am–12pm

March 9–April 13, 2016

UBC Continuing Studies

Tapestry at Wesbrook Village

Course Syllabus

Instructor Michael J. Griffin (D.Phil., Oxford)
Assistant Professor of Classics and Philosophy
University of British Columbia
Email: michael.griffin@ubc.ca
Phone: 604-822-4050

Course webpage <http://socrates.arts.ubc.ca/socratesandthebuddha>
Download slides and class materials here. Password: eudaimonia

Socrates of Athens and Siddhartha Gautama are regarded as founders, respectively, of European philosophy and Buddhism. They were also near contemporaries, who taught by question and answer, upended many of the cultural assumptions of their age, and established traditions of scientific and religious inquiry that would last for millennia. This course places them in dialogue to explore the similarities and differences between Greek and Indian thought, and the enduring relevance of Socratic method and Buddhist philosophy.

Course Calendar

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| 1 | March 9 | Introduction: Overview of Greek and Buddhist Philosophy |
| 2 | March 16 | The challenge of suffering: Socrates & Buddha on the Human Condition |
| 3 | March 23 | The diagnosis of philosophy: Ignorance, Self-Knowledge, and Insight |
| 4 | March 30 | Finding a cure: The goals of <i>eudaimonia</i> and <i>nirvāṇa</i> |
| 5 | April 6 | A path to well-being: Philosophical practice and the eightfold noble path |
| 6 | April 13 | Conclusions and applications |

Please feel free to contact the instructor (email printed above)
with any queries relating to the course and its content.