"Our purpose is to reaffirm the Perennial Philosophy which, like an underground river, has flowed through all civilizations and all ages, and wherever it sends up springs and fountains, beauty and wisdom have flowered." Kathleen Raine

THE TEMENOS ACADEMY
PATRON HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

FOUNDATION COURSE IN
THE PERENNIAL PHILOSOPHY
A TWO-YEAR PART-TIME DIPLOMA COURSE
October 2019-June 2021

PART TWO: EASTERN TRADITIONS
October 2020-June 2021

The Temenos Academy is an educational charity founded in 1990 by Dr. Kathleen Raine (1908-2003) and others, which offers education in philosophy and the arts in the light of the sacred traditions of East and West. The Greek word temenos means a sacred precinct.

The Temenos Academy is a Registered Charity, No. 1043015
**Course Objectives**

The purpose of the two-year course is to provide an introduction to the universal tradition that is our spiritual heritage, through direct engagement with key texts of both the West and the East. It offers an opportunity to study works of philosophy, poetry, and mysticism that have shaped and nourished civilizations. By exploring perennial teachings, which for centuries have renewed and sustained our culture, it offers a vital counterbalance to prevailing assumptions and values. The expertise of the tutors is devoted to providing the most direct encounter possible with the teachings themselves, which, springing from the love of wisdom and the quest for truth, open up infinite riches for study and contemplation. It is hoped that students will learn from, and not merely about, some of the profoundest thinkers the world has known.

**Part Two: Eastern Traditions**

Students will be introduced to textual sources of the perennial philosophy in three major Eastern traditions: Hinduism, Taoism and Islamic mysticism. Through guided readings of the Bhagavad Gītā and the Upanishads in the first term, the Tao Te Ching, the Chuang Tzu and the Hui Nien Tzu in the second term, and Attar's The Conference of the Birds along with the writings of the Islamic metaphysician Ibn Arabī in the third term, Part Two provides students with the opportunity to engage directly with some of the most important wisdom traditions of the East.

**Course Structure: Part Two**

**Course Content**

**First Term: Hinduism**

Weeks 1–5: An introduction to the classic of Hindu religious philosophy, the Bhagavad Gītā. The full text will be read.

Weeks 6–10: A study of selected passages from the principal Upanishads, focusing on teachings concerning the Self or Ātman, the doctrines of rebirth and salvation, and the concept of Brahman. Where possible, the commentaries of Shankara will be used as a guide.

**Textual Sources:** The Bhagavad Gītā, and selections from the Upanishads.

**Second Term: Taoism**

An exploration of key themes of Taoism, including heaven and earth, life and death, transformation and illumination.

Weeks 1–4: Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching (complete text).

Weeks 5–7: Selected writings from the Chuang Tzu.

Weeks 8–10: Selected writings from the Hui Nien Tzu.

**Textual Sources:** Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching, and selections from the Chuang Tzu, and the Hui Nien Tzu.

**Third Term: Islamic Mysticism**

Weeks 1–5: A study of the full text of Attar’s The Conference of the Birds, introducing basic principles of creation, unity, self-knowledge and the spiritual quest.

Weeks 6–10: An introduction to the work of Ibn ‘Arabī, based on selected readings from The Ringstones of Wisdom, exploring these themes in more depth.

**Textual Sources:** Attar, The Conference of the Birds. Ibn ‘Arabī: selections from Fawā'id al-‘ikām (The Ringstones of Wisdom), al-Futūḥāt al-Makkiyya (The Meccan Revelations), and Kitāb al-‘Iṣfūr (The Book of Journeying).

**Course Tutors**

RAVI KUMAR KANDAMATH (Hinduism) LLB FRAS, is a lawyer and public-affairs consultant. Born into a former ruling family of Southern India in the lineage of the Kulasekharra Perumals of Kerala, he is a keen student of Sanskrit literature. Among his interests are the relationship between mind and matter, the mystical aspect of world religions, and aspects of wellbeing in the Indian tradition.

SANDRA HILL (Taoism), after completing postgraduate studies in fine art at St. Martin's School of Art, travelled to the Far East to pursue her interest in the influence of Eastern philosophy on Western art. She lived for four years in Japan, returning to the UK to study both classical philosophical and medical texts. Sandra currently practises Chinese calligraphy, Taoist meditation and acupuncture.

JANE CLARK MA (Islamic Mysticism) is a Senior Research Fellow of the Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi Society. She has a Masters degree in Medieval Arabic Philosophy from the University of Oxford, and has been studying, teaching and lecturing on the ideas of Ibn ‘Arabi for more than thirty years.

**Venue**

The Art Workers Guild
6 Queen Square
Bloomsbury
London WC1N 3AT

Nearest undergounds: Russell Square and Holborn

**Cost**

The course fee is £1,400 for two years (Part One and Part Two), or £800 for Part Two only. A non-refundable deposit of £325 will be required by April 30th 2019 in order to secure your place for the full course, the remainder of the fee (£1,075) payable by July 31st 2019. For Part Two only, the non-refundable deposit of £325 will be required by April 30th 2020 and the remainder (£475) payable by July 31st 2020. Priority is given to students booking for the whole course. Individual modules will only be offered if spaces are available, at £325 per module. Early booking recommended.

NB The course is open to students 18 years of age and over.

Discretionary concessions are available on application, stating reasons, to temenosacademy@myfastmail.com