"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 2021-June 2023

PART TWO: EASTERN TRADITIONS
October 2022-June 2023

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 civilization. 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 reading of the Bhagavad Gītā and the Upanishads in the first term, the Tao Te Ching, the Chuang Tzu and the Huai Nan Tzu in the second term, and Ṭattār’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 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 Huai Nan Tzu.
Textual Sources: Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching, and selections from the Chuang Tzu, and the Huai Nan Tzu.

THIRD TERM: ISLAMIC MYSTICISM
Weeks 1–5: A study of the full text of Ṭattār’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.

Cost
The course fee is £1400 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 2021 in order to secure your place for the full course, the remainder of the fee (£1075) payable by July 31st 2021. For Part Two only, the non-refundable deposit of £325 will be required by April 30th 2022 and the remainder (£475) payable by July 31st 2022. 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

Venue
The Art Workers Guild
6 Queen Square
Bloomsbury
London WC1N 3AT
Nearest undergrounds: Russell Square and Holborn

Course Tutors

DR. JOSEPH MILNE (Hinduism) now retired Honorary Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Kent, is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy, Trustee of The Eckhart Society, and Editor of Land & Liberty magazine. His main interests are the great Hindu and Christian mystics, the interpretation of Shakespeare, and the Western tradition of natural law.

DR. VALENTIN GERLIER (Hinduism), writer and musician, is a tutor for the Temenos Academy and a member of its Academic Board. He also tutors in metaphysics and philosophy of religion at the University of Cambridge. His interests include Eastern and Western mystical traditions including Advaita Vedanta, the works of Rabindranath Tagore as well as Shakespeare, William Blake, Romantic poetry, and the relationship between religion, spirituality and nature.

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 Muhayyidin Ibn ‘Arabī 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 ‘Arabī for more than thirty years.

Course Structure: Part Two

Content: Part Two of the course is divided into three modules:
(1) Hinduism (2) Taoism and (3) Islamic Mysticism. For details of the content, see under ‘Course Content’ below.

Tuition: Study of the modules will take place over three terms, with weekly meetings led by the module tutor on Tuesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. Students will be expected to read approximately thirty or forty pages of text each week. Tuition will be conducted by lectures and guided discussions on the content of the previous week’s reading.

Accreditation: In order to receive a Certificate of Completion students will be required to write one essay of approximately 2000 words for each module and to attend a minimum of 80% of classes. Students who successfully complete both Part One and Part Two, and fulfil these criteria, will be eligible for a Temenos Academy Foundation Course Diploma. However, students may also attend the classes and not write an essay and therefore not receive the Certificate or Diploma.

* For ‘Part One: The Western Tradition’, see separate leaflet.