

# PHILOSOPHY 301

*Spring 2021*

*4th Essay Assignment*

Due Monday, May 3

All papers must be properly word processed or typed with 1" margins on the top, sides and bottom. Use double-spacing and no larger than 12pt font. Turn in by uploading to Laulima as either a Word file or pdf file. Use the following format to title your file: lastname Phil 301 #4.

**Write a 3-4 page essay on one of the following:**

## *Chan Buddhism*

How does Chan Buddhism combine elements from Mahāyāna Buddhism and Daoism and how is this evident in the writings of Bodhidharma and *The Platform Sutra*?

## *Neo-Confucianism*

How did Neo-Confucianism bring about a synthesis of Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism? What is the Great Ultimate (*Taiji / T'ai chi* 太極) that is the central concept of Neo-Confucianism? Explain how this concept incorporated features of Daoist, Yin-yang, and Five Agencies thinking, and how it furthered the Confucian interest in morality.

## **Grading Rubric**

## **Maximum Points**

### **1) Writing**

Grammar and spelling, composition and style. Your essay should be well organized. There should be an introduction, development of a theme, and a conclusion.

**20** \_\_\_\_\_

### **2) Philosophical Content**

The essay should reflect an adequate understanding of the texts. Your exposition of the text should include *at least two quotations* from the primary text material. All quotes should be properly marked within the text and must include a reference to the text cited.

**50** \_\_\_\_\_

### **3) Commentary**

Your own thoughtful reflections on the topic.

**30** \_\_\_\_\_