Can philosophy be a way of life rather than a field of study?

This course will explore two rival ways of life—Confucianism and Zen Buddhism—looking first at how they are practiced today, and then at how they developed together in the Tang and Song dynasties.

We will address topics such as the difference between philosophy and religion, and the relation between theory and practice within philosophy.

Zen Buddhists subvert human reason, but do they replace it with something recognizable as faith? Confucians promote the use of reason, but do they think of reason as inimical to faith? We will discuss the limitations of the Western concepts of faith and reason when applied to Chinese forms of thought.

PHIL 310W / 420W
Fall, 2019 — T Th 10:50-12:05
Michael Harrington

This course satisfies the Faith and Reason theme area requirement.