

CUHK Philosophy Dept.

2010/2011 2nd term

Date: Tuesday

Time: 14:30-17:15

Venue: SWH 1

Teacher: Prof. Lau Kwok Keung

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PHIL 3531 Special Topic on Chinese Philosophy:

Confucianism and the Spirit of Chinese Culture

Course Description:

This course is tailored especially for foreign students and exchange students. Local students are also welcome. The medium of instruction is English. The course aims at providing a comprehensive and essential elaboration of the basic tenets of Confucianism and its relation to the essential characteristics and spirits of Chinese culture. The course will give an essential picture of the emergence and development of Confucianism as well as its philosophical system. The main characteristics and spirits of Chinese culture will also be discussed.

Course requirement:

1. Term paper -- 50% of course grade, 6-10 pages (doubled space)
2. Class presentation & report --50% of course grade, 5-8 pages (doubled space)

Within the scope of the course students are free to decide the topics of their papers and presentations.

Course expected outcome:

1. To have a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical system of Confucianism
2. Able to appreciate the humanism and rationalism of Confucianism
3. To have the knowledge of Chinese Culture and able to understand the close relationship between Confucianism and Chinese culture
4. Able to critically as well as sympathetically evaluate the Confucian or Chinese way

of solving the problems such as : What is human nature? The relationship between man and God (Heaven or Dao), the universality of morality or moral principles,

Course Outline

1. A bird-eye view of the chronology of Chinese History and the development of the three stages of Confucianism.
2. The emergence of Humanism in early Zhou Dynasty and the founding of Confucianism by Confucius and the confirmation by Mencius.
3. The meaning of “ren”(仁 benevolence) in Confucius’ *Analects* and Sung-Ming Confucians.
4. Human nature as focal point of Confucianism – the interpretation of “ human nature is innately good”
5. Mind is the centre of self-cultivation and human existence.
6. The Unity of Heaven and Man – a metaphysical assertion of Confucianism
7. Confucian political philosophy and democracy
8. Definition of “culture” and the foundation of culture
9. The characteristics and spirits of Chinese Culture and its relation to Confucianism
-- (i) Humanism, (ii)priority of moral value, (iii) religious tolerant and the closeness between God and man, (iv) family and not individual as cell of society,
10. The characteristics and spirits of Chinese Culture and its relation to Confucianism
-- (v) high esteem of education, (vi) priority of concrete reasoning and existential feeling, and strong in synthetic thinking while weak in analytical reasoning, (vii) emerged with agricultural civilization, (viii) quest for harmony and the Mean.

References:

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4. Chau Hock-Tong (2000) *Confucianism in Chinese Culture*, Malaysia : Pelanbeck Publication.
5. Oldstone-Moore, Jennifer (2002). *Confucianism*. Oxford University Press.
6. Tu Wei-ming (1979). *Humanity and Self-Cultivation: Essays in Confucian Thought*, Asian Humanities Press
7. Chang chi-yun (1980), *Confucians: A Modern Interpretation*. Taipei: Hwa Kang Press, China Academy.
8. Zhang, Wei-Bei (1999). *Confucianism and Modernization*. Macmillan Press.
9. 唐君毅(1990) 。《唐君毅全集》卷十九，《英文論著彙編》。台灣：學生書局。
(Tang Chunyi [1990]. *Complete work of Tang Chunyi*. Vol. 19 : *Anthology of English Papers*, Taipei : Student Book Co.)
10. Wei, Francis C.M. (1947). *The Spirit of Chinese Cultures*, N.Y. : Charles Scribner's Sons.
11. De Bary, Wn. Theodore (1982). *The Liberal Tradition in China*, The Chinese University Press.
12. Tu, Wei Ming, Hejtmarek, Milan Wadnam, Blau (1992). *The Confucian World Observed*, Honolulu: The East-West Center.
13. James, T.C. & Tu Wei-ming (1970). *Traditional China*, N.T.-Prentice-Hall.
14. Wing-tsit Chan (1963, 1969,1973). *Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*. New Jersey : Princeton University Press. Fourth Printing, 1973.
15. *Confucius: The Analects*. Translated by D. C. Lau.(1979,1983, 1992, 2000). Penguin, 1979. Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, 2000.
16. *Mencius*. D.C. Lau translated(1970). Penguin.