

Chinese Culture & Its Philosophies

UGEA2150C Humanities Building 11

Th 10:30 – 12:15 pm

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I. Description and Objectives of The Course

UGEA 2150C is an introductory course of Chinese culture and its philosophies. It will focus on the philosophical spirits of the Chinese culture and its expressions in the everyday life of Chinese people. The purpose of the course is to help both Hong Kong and international students to be familiar with the Chinese philosophical traditions, and to develop their ability of dealing philosophically with the important life issues in our contemporary multi-cultural world.

II. Course Requirements and Grading

Students are required to attend classes regularly, to participate in class discussions and in the assigned group projects actively. Students will be evaluated mainly from their performance on one final exam (60%) and one presentation or paper in the class (35%). Class participation will count for at least 5% toward the final grade.

III. Readings

Text books:

- 1) Fung Yu-lang, *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*, (The Free Press, 1966) [Fung]
- 2) 《中國文化導讀》(香港城市大學出版社, 1999)[wen]

Other readings:

- 1) David Hall & Roger Ames, *Thinking Through Confucius* (SUNY Press, 1987)
- 2) Yutang Lin, *The Importance of Living*, (Heinemann, 1960)
- 3) 勞思光, 《中國文化要義新編》(香港中文大學出版社, 1998)
- 4) 唐君毅, 《中國文化之精神價值》(臺北中正書局, 1953)
- 5) 牟宗三, 《中國哲學十九講》(臺灣學生書局, 1983)
- 6) 李澤厚, 《中國古代思想史論》(人民出版社, 1985)
- 7) 孫隆基, 《中國文化的深層結構》(唐山出版社, 1990)

IV. Tentative Course Plan

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| 1/9 | Introduction and a Historical Background of Chinese Culture
(Reading: Fung, pp.1-15; Wen, pp.2-45) |
| 1/16 | The Structure of Chinese Society and the Spirit of Chinese Culture
(Reading: Fung, pp.16-37) |
| 1/23 | Confucius: The First Teacher of Chinese Culture
(Reading: Fung, pp.38-48; Wen, pp. 197-207) |
| 2/6 | Morality: Good Man and Good Society
(Reading: Fung, pp.68-79; pp.143-154; Wen, pp.207-210) |
| 2/13 | Dao, Nature and Mysticism
(Reading: Fung, pp. 93-102; Wen, pp.213-221) |

- 2/20* group presentations and discussions:
 Topic 1 Chinese Festivals and Zodiac
 Topic 2 Chinese Food, Wine and Tea Culture
- 2/27 Chinese Spirit of Freedom and Authenticity of Life
 (Reading: Fung, pp. 104-118; Wen, pp.222-224)
- 3/6 Yi-Ching
 (Reading: Fung, pp.129-142; Wen, 148-165)
- 3/13 Religious and Sentimental Daoism
 (Reading: Fung, pp.231-240; Wen, pp.311-329)
- 3/20 Political Traditions and Legalist Ideas
 (Reading: Fung, pp.155-165; Wen, pp.228-241)
- 3/27 Shakyamuni Buddha and His Influence in China
 (Reading: Fung, pp.241-254; Wen, pp.331-340)
- 4/3* group presentations and discussions
 Topic 3 Chinese Medicine and its Cultural Groundings
 Topic 4 Buddhist Mountains and Buddhist Temples in China
- 4/10 Chinese Chan Buddhism
 (Reading: Fung, pp.255-265; Wen 340-349)
- 4/17 Conclusion and Review

V. Students Presentation and Paper Projects:

- 1) 4 topics:
 - Topic 1 Chinese Festivals and Zodiac
 - Topic 2 Chinese Food, Wine and Tea Culture
 - Topic 3 Chinese Medicine and its Cultural Grounding
 - Topic 4 Buddhist Mountains and Buddhist Temples in China
- 2) Each student would be assigned doing either presentation or paper on one of the four topics based on his/her preference.
- 3) Students assigned to do presentation should work as a team and be responsible for both presentation and discussion. The style and format of the presentation would be decided mainly by the students. The total time for each presentation would be 35-40 minutes. There should be 5-10 minutes left for the professor to give comments on both the topic and the performance of the presentation.
- 4) Students assigned to do paper should be submit her paper on the presentation day of the same topics. The paper should be double-space typed and 1500-3000 words long. Soft copy would not be accepted.
- 5) It is recommended that students choose perspectives of the assigned broad topics to do presentations and papers. Both presentation and papers should show at least some connections between the cultural phenomena and Chinese philosophical traditions..

VI. Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

