

UGEA2160 Mainstream Chinese Philosophical Thought
Term 2, 2015
Course Outline

Time: Monday 10:30-13:15

Location: ERB703

Course Overview

This course introduces you to the philosophical traditions of Warring States China (475-221 BCE) and the impact they had on its cultural development. Specifically, we will examine the following schools of thought: Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism, and the Logicians. Although the principles developed by these schools would forever shape China's intellectual landscape, the role of Buddhism from the Imperial period (Tang dynasty) onwards is too great to be ignored. We will, therefore, also discuss the four major schools of Buddhism in China. The goal of this course is to peak your interest in classical Chinese philosophy and to encourage you to attend more specialized, major courses in the future.

Learning Outcomes

1. Become familiar with key philosophical arguments of early Chinese philosophers.
2. Develop your skill in reading philosophical texts.
3. Develop your critical thinking skills by discussing reading materials in class or with classmates.

Topics

See lecture schedule below

Learning Activities

1. Read and give thought to the assigned readings.
2. Develop the skills mentioned above in the Learning Outcomes.
3. Attend class lectures and contribute to the discussion at hand.

Assessment Scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Class Participation	-	10%
In-Class Test #1	Week 6	20%
In-Class Test #2	Week 12	20%
Final Exam	2 hours, end of semester	50%

Course Materials

This course employs two texts: one primary, the other secondary. The primary text gives the essential information for each school and our lectures, tests, and final exam are based upon it. The secondary text is a 'reader' in that it contains translations of key passages from each philosophical work we will discuss in class. Reading as many translated passages as possible will greatly assist your understanding of the primary text. You should, therefore, first read the primary text and then read the secondary text. All reading material will be posted on Blackboard and you are **required** to download and read each week's material **before** attending lecture. Not doing so will severely inhibit your ability to perform well on the in-class tests and final examination. The details for the texts we will use are as follows:

Mou, Bo. *History of Chinese Philosophy*. Routledge, 2009.

(If you want to download this book you can do so by searching for it in our library catalogue)

*Liu, Jeeliu. *Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*. Blackwell, 2006.

Chan, Wing-Tsit. *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*. Princeton University Press, 1963.

Course Schedule

Week	Lecture Topic	Primary Readings (Mou)	Secondary Readings (Chan)	Remarks
1 (Jan 11)	Course Introduction; <i>Yijing</i> and Yin-Yang	Ch. 2	Ch. 13	
2 (Jan 18)	Laozi	Ch. 7	Ch. 7	
3 (Jan 25)	Confucius	Ch. 3	Ch. 2	
4 (Feb 1)	Mozi	Ch. 4	Ch. 9	
5 (Feb 8-12)	<i>Chinese New Year Holiday</i>			
6 (Feb 15)	Zhuangzi	Ch. 8	Ch. 8	
7 (Feb 22)				In-Class Test #1
8 (Feb 29)	Mencius	Ch. 6	Ch. 3	
9 (March 7)	Xunzi	Ch. 6	Ch. 6	
10 (March 14)	Hanfeizi	*Liu, Ch. 8	Ch. 12	
11 (March 21)	Buddhism I	*Liu, Ch. 9	Ch. 23	
12 (March 28)	Buddhism II	*Liu, Ch. 10	Ch. 24	
13 (April 4)	Buddhism III	*Liu, Ch. 11	Ch. 25	

14 (April 11)				In-Class Test #2
15 (April 18)	Buddhism IV	*Liu, Ch. 12	Ch. 26	

* This schedule is tentative and subject to change. The University will determine the **Final Exam** date.

Details of Course Website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

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/
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