

UGEA 2160A - Mainstream Chinese Philosophy
Term 1, 2016
Course Outline

Time: Tuesday 10:30-13:15

Location: LSK208

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, and Legalism. 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, discuss two 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 specialized, major courses in the future.

Learning Outcomes

1. Become familiar with philosophical arguments of early Chinese philosophers.
2. Develop your skill in writing a philosophical research paper.
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	Description	Weight
Class Participation	-	10%
In-Class Test #1	Week 7	25%
In-Class Test #2	Week 13	25%
Research Paper	Week 13	40%

Course Materials

This course employs two kinds of text: one primary and one secondary. The primary texts give the essential

information for each school and our lectures, tests, and your term paper. The secondary text is a ‘reader’ in that it contains translations of key passages from each philosophical work we will discuss. Reading as many translated passages as possible will greatly assist your understanding of the primary texts. All reading material will be posted on Blackboard and you are required to download and read the material for each week before attending lecture. Not doing so will severely inhibit your ability to perform well on the in-class tests and write a successful term paper.

Primary Texts

Mou, Bo. *History of Chinese Philosophy*. Routledge, 2009.
 Liu, Jeeliu. *Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*. Blackwell, 2006.

Secondary Text

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

In-Class Tests

This course includes two, 60-minute tests. Each test is worth 25 marks and contains two parts. Part A contains six term identification questions from which you will answer four. You must say what each term is and why it is significant to Chinese philosophy. Part B involves a short essay (half a page) on one of two given topics. **No make-up tests** are allowed except for a documented medical emergency. The first test will be held in week 6 and the second test in week 13 (shorter lectures will be given on these days).

Research Paper

You are to write one research paper, in English, on one of the figures covered in lecture. If you are unsure of a topic, ask for my help. **Comparative studies are not allowed**. I will post a comprehensive bibliography on Blackboard for you to download. Only **journal articles** included in this file are allowed (search for them on the library website). If you have trouble locating an article, ask for my help. **No online or Chinese materials are allowed**. The term paper is due in class in week 13. **Late papers will not be accepted after 24 hours**. The format should be: 1-inch margins, double-line spacing, 12 pt. font. Marks will be deducted for larger margins or font size. Include a cover page with the paper’s title, your name and student number, the course code, and date of submission. The length of each essay is 5 pages, not including the bibliography (use a separate page at the end). You can write more if you like but anything less than **5 full pages** and I will deduct marks. You must use proper citations throughout your paper (in-text or footnote). If you are not sure how to do this, use any of the articles you have downloaded as a guide. The term paper is worth 40 marks and I will assign these based on how well you organize your arguments, how clearly they are written (having a well-defined thesis is vital), and your ability to use the work of scholars to strengthen your own writing.

Course Schedule

Week	Lecture Topic	Primary Readings	Secondary Readings	Remarks
1 (Sep 6)	Course Introduction	Mou, Ch. 1	Ch. 1	
2 (Sep 13)	Laozi	Mou, Ch. 7	Ch. 7	

3 (Sep 20)	Confucius	Mou, Ch. 3	Ch. 2	
4 (Sep 27)	Mozi	Mou, Ch. 4	Ch. 9	
6 (Oct 4)	Zhuangzi	Mou, Ch. 8	Ch. 8	
7 (Oct 11)	School of Names	Mou, Ch. 5	Ch. 10	Test #1
8 (Oct 18)	Mencius	Mou, Ch. 6	Ch. 3	
9 (Oct 25)	Xunzi	Mou, Ch. 6	Ch. 6	
10 (Nov 8)	Hanfeizi	Liu, Ch. 8	Ch. 12	
11 (Nov 15)	Buddhism, part 1	Liu, Ch. 9	Ch. 23	
12 (Nov 22)	Buddhism, part 2	Liu, Ch. 12	Ch. 26	
13 (Nov 29)	Course Conclusion	-	-	Test #2 Research Paper due

* This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

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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