

UGEA 2150B - Chinese Culture and its Philosophies

Term 2, 2016
Course Outline

Time: Wednesday 10:30-12:15

Location: MMW710

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the culture of China. Specifically, we will examine what is meant by the word culture and how such an understanding influenced the development of Chinese civilization from its beginning through the pre-modern period. In order to provide as comprehensive an overview as possible, each week's lecture will cover a different component of China's cultural heritage, examples of which include: philosophy and religion, literature and the arts, women and society, technology and science, food and theories of health, and statecraft. With this knowledge in hand, you will be well-prepared to undertake other, more specialized courses on China no matter the time period.

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the main characteristics of Chinese culture, especially those elements in the fields of philosophy, religion, literature, society, and governance, and to explain the relations between them.
2. Assess Chinese culture by comparing and contrasting its various elements and their theoretical characteristics.
3. Reflect on the significance of Chinese culture in contemporary society and how it can be applied (or not) to improve our quality of life.

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 14	25%
Research Paper	Week 14	40%

Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course; we will use individual readings posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for downloading and reading them before lecture. The course schedule shows which texts will be covered for each lecture. The full list is as follows:

- Benn, Charles. *Daily Life in Traditional China: The Tang Dynasty*. Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2002.
- Bonds, Alexandra. *Beijing Opera Costumes: The Visual Communication of Character and Culture*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2008.
- Bushell, Stephen. *Chinese Art*. New York: Parkstone Press International, 2009.
- Chen, Tingyou. *Chinese Calligraphy*. Ren Lingjuan, Trans. Beijing: China International Press, 2003.
- Cook, Constance. *Death in Ancient China: The Tale of One Man's Journey*. Leiden: Brill, 2006.
- Ebrey, Patricia. "Gender and Sinology: Shifting Western Interpretations of Footbinding, 1300-1890" *Late Imperial China*, 20.2 (Dec. 1999): 1-34.
- Elman, Benjamin. "The Civil Examination System in Late Imperial China, 1400-1900" *Frontiers of History in China*, 8.1 (2013): 32-50.
- Fenollosa, Ernest. *Epochs of Chinese and Japanese Arts: An Outline History of East Asiatic Design*. 2 vols. Massachusetts: Stone Bridge Press, 2007.
- Girardot, N.J. "The Problem of Creation Mythology in the Study of Chinese Religion" *History of Religions*, 15.4 (May 1976): 289-318.
- Goldin, Paul. "The Myth that China has no Creation Myth" *Monumenta Serica*, 56 (2008): 1-22.
- Hinsch, Bret. *Women in Early Imperial China*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers Inc., 2011.
- Lai, Karyn. *An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Lovrick, Peter. *Chinese Opera: The Actor's Craft*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2014.
- Luo, Yuming. *A Concise History of Chinese Literature*. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2011.
- Olberding, Amy. "Sorrow and the Sage: Grief in the *Zhuangzi*" *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, 6.4 (Dec. 2007): 339-359.
- Qing, Julia. *Mysticism and Kingship in China: The Heart of Chinese Wisdom*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Sterckx, Roel. *Of Tripod and Palate: Food, Politics and Religion in Traditional China*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2005.
- Temple, Robert. *The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery and Invention*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2007.
- Zhang, Ellen. "The Neo-Confucian Concept of Body and its Ethical Sensibility" in Ruiping Fan, *Confucian Bioethics*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002: 45-63.

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 7 and the second test in week 14 (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 14. **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	Readings	Remarks
1 (Jan 4)	Course Outline; Mythology	Girardot; Goldin	
2 (Jan 11)	Language	Chen	
3 (Jan 18)	Philosophy	Lai (Confucius and Laozi)	
4 (Jan 25)	Religion	Lai (Buddhism)	
6 (Feb 8)	Education & Statecraft	Elman; Qing	
7 (Feb 15)	Food & Festivals	Sterckx; Benn	Test #1
8 (Feb 22)	Women	Hinsch; Ebrey	
9 (Mar 8)	Death & Mourning	Cook; Olberding	
10 (Mar 15)	Health & Medicine	Benn; Zhang	
11 (Mar 22)	Literature	Luo	
12 (Mar 29)	Visual Arts	Fenollosa	
13 (Apr 5)	Technology	Temple	
14 (Apr 12)	Chinese Opera	Bonds	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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