

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
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Fall 2017

Chinese Culture & Its Philosophies

UGEA2150A ELB405 W5-6

I. Description of the Course

UGEA 2150A 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.

II. The Objectives of the Course

The purpose of the course is 1) to help both Hong Kong and international students to be familiar with the Chinese philosophical traditions, 2) to research further the issues taught, 3) and to develop their ability of dealing philosophically with the important life issues in our contemporary multi-cultural world.

III. Course Requirements and Grading

Students are required to attend classes regularly, to participate in class discussions and in the assigned papers/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.

IV. 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)
- 8) 王慶節, 《道德感動與儒家示範倫理學》(北京大學出版社, 2016)

V. Tentative Course Plan

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| 6/9 | Introduction and a Historical Background of Chinese Culture
(Reading: Fung, pp.1-15; Wen, pp.2-45) |
| 13/9 | The Structure of Chinese Society and the Spirit of Chinese Culture
(Reading: Fung, pp.16-37) |
| 20/9 | Confucius: The First Teacher of Chinese Culture
(Reading: Fung, pp.38-48; Wen, pp. 197-207) |
| 27/9 | Morality: Good Man and Good Society
(Reading: Fung, pp.68-79; pp.143-154; Wen, pp.207-210) |

- 4/10*** **group presentations and discussions**
 Topic 1 Chinese Festivals and the related Rituals
 Topic 2 Chinese Food, Wine and Tea Culture
- 11/10 Dao, Nature and Mysticism
 (Reading: Fung, pp. 93-102; Wen, pp.213-221)
- 18/10 Chinese Spirit of Freedom and Authenticity of Life
 (Reading: Fung, pp. 104-118; Wen, pp.222-224)
- 25/10 Political Traditions and Legalist Ideas
 (Reading: Fung, pp.155-165; Wen, pp.228-241)
- 1/11 The Philosophy of Yi-Ching
 (Reading: Fung, pp.129-142; Wen, 148-165)
- 8/11 Shakyamuni Buddha and His Influence in China
 (Reading: Fung, pp.241-254; Wen, pp.331-340)
- 15/11*** **group presentations and discussions**
 Topic 3 Chinese Medicine and its Cultural Groundings
 Topic 4 Buddhist Mountains and Buddhist Temples in China
- 22/11 Chinese Chan Buddhism and the Sudden Enlightenment
 (Reading: Fung, pp.255-265; Wen 340-349)
- 29/11 Conclusion and Review
- ?/12** **Final Exam**

VI. Students Presentation and Paper Projects:

- 1) 4 topics:
 - Topic 1 Chinese Festivals and the Related Rituals
 - 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 2000-3000 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 the Chinese philosophical traditions..

VII. 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.