

## UGEA 2160A - Mainstream Chinese Philosophy

Term 1, 2017  
Course Outline

**Time: Tuesday 10:30-13:15**

**Location: LSK 208**

### Course Overview

This course introduces you to the philosophical thought of ancient and early-medieval China. Specifically, we will discuss the schools of Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism, Buddhism, and Neo-Confucianism. By surveying the key arguments of these schools, the goal of this course is to peak your interest in 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%
Test #1	1 hour	25%
Test #2	1 hour	25%
Term Paper	5 pages	40%

### Course Materials

This course employs two kinds of text: primary and secondary. 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.

Huang, Siu-chi. *Essentials of Neo-Confucianism*. Greenwood Press, 1999.

### 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: short identification questions and an essay. **No make-up tests** are allowed except for a documented medical emergency. The first test will be Oct. 17; the second on Nov. 21 (shorter lectures will be given on these days).

### **Research Paper**

You will write one term paper, in English, on one of the topics covered in this course. **Comparative papers are not allowed**. Online materials are also not allowed. The paper is due in class on Nov. 28. **Late papers will not be accepted, no matter what the reason!** The format should be: 1-inch margins, 1.5 line spacing, 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Include a separate cover page containing the title of your paper, your name and student number, the course code, and date of submission. You **must cite any and all material** that is not of your own creation. The citation format should be in-text brackets where you will only give the author's family name and page number of the text being quoted or summarized, i.e. (Chai, 100). If you have two authors with the same family name, or you are using multiple texts from the same author, add the year of publication, i.e. (Chai 2017, 100). All remaining information is given in the bibliography (use a separate page at the end of your paper), i.e. (Chai, David. *The title of the book in italic font*. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 2017). The minimum length of each paper is **5 pages**, not including the title page and bibliography. If you do not follow these instructions, I will reduce your mark by 5%. The term paper is worth 40 points and I will assign these based on how well you organize your argument, how clearly it is written (having a well-defined thesis is vital), and your ability to analyze the work of scholars.

### **Course Schedule**

Lecture	Lecture Topic	Primary Readings	Secondary Readings	Remarks
<b>1</b> (Sept 5)	Course Introduction	-	-	
<b>2</b> (Sept 12)	Laozi	Mou, Ch. 7	Ch. 7	
<b>3</b> (Sept 19)	Confucius	Mou, Ch. 3	Ch. 2	

<b>4</b> (Sept 26)	Mozi	Mou, Ch. 4	Ch. 9	
<b>5</b> (Oct 3)	Zhuangzi	Mou, Ch. 8	Ch. 8	
<b>6</b> (Oct 10)	Mencius	Mou, Ch. 6	Ch. 3	
<b>7</b> (Oct 17)	School of Names	Mou, Ch. 5	Ch. 10	<b>Test #1</b>
<b>8</b> (Oct 24)	Xunzi	Mou, Ch. 6	Ch. 6	
<b>9</b> (Oct 31)	Hanfeizi	Liu, Ch. 8	Ch. 12	
<b>10</b> (Nov 7)	Wei-Shi – Buddhism	Liu, Ch. 9	Ch. 23	
<b>11</b> (Nov 14)	Chan – Buddhism	Liu, Ch. 12	Ch. 26	
<b>12</b> (Nov 21)	Zhou Dunyi – Neo-Confucianism	Huang, Ch. 2	Ch. 28	<b>Test #2</b>
<b>13</b> (Nov 28)	Dai Zhen – Neo-Confucianism	Huang, Ch. 4	-	<b>Term Paper due</b>

\* 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/>

### Contact Details

<b>Professor D. Chai</b>	
Office	Room 422, Fung King Hey Building
Email	davidchai@cuhk.edu.hk
Hours	Drop-by anytime. If you need to see me at a specific time/day, contact me by email first