

UGEA 2160A – Mainstream Chinese Philosophy
Term 1, 2020

Time: tbd

Location: online

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 pique 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. Broaden your historical understanding of Chinese philosophy.
3. Appreciate the role Chinese philosophy still plays in modern society.

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 lectures and engage your fellow classmates in discussion on the material presented.

Assessment Scheme

Task	Description	Mode of Teaching	Weight
Attendance / Participation	-	online	10%
Reading Summary	200-word summary 12 in total, 2.5 points each	online	30%
Exam	3 hours	take home	60%

Reading Summaries:

You are asked to write a short summary (200 words) of each week's reading, with the first due in week two. You should not copy-and-paste the content of the text but summarize its key points in your own words. The summary is to be sent to me via email. The subject of your email message must be written as: [Your Full Name_UGEA2160_X Summary](#) (where X is the lecture topic). Each summary is worth 2.5 points, for a total of 30 points of your final grade. There will not be a summary for our final lecture.

Exam:

We will have a three-hour, comprehensive exam. The exam covers the entire course (all lectures and readings) and you will be asked to write three short essays of approximately 750 words each. This will be a take-home exam. Complete instructions will be issued in our final lecture. Each answer will be worth 20 points, for a total of 60 points of your final grade. Exams will not be returned.

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Course Schedule

Lecture	Topic	Readings	Work Due
1	Course Outline; Introduction		
2	Laozi	Mou, ch. 7	reading summary 1
3	Confucius	Mou, ch. 3	reading summary 2
4	Mozi	Mou, ch. 4	reading summary 3
5	Zhuangzi	Mou, ch. 8	reading summary 4
6	Mencius	Mou, ch. 6	reading summary 5
7	School of Names	Mou, ch. 5	reading summary 6
8	Xunzi	Mou, ch. 6	reading summary 7
9	Hanfeizi	Liu, ch. 8	reading summary 8
10	Wei-Shi Buddhism	Liu, ch. 9	reading summary 9
11	Chan Buddhism	Liu, ch. 12	reading summary 10
12	Zhou Dunyi	Huang, ch. 2	reading summary 11
13	Zhang Zai	Huang, ch. 4	reading summary 12

Readings:

There are three texts for this course and they will be 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.

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

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

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

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.

Contact Information

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