

**Phil 5310/7310 – Seminar on Pre-Modern Chinese Philosophy:
The School of Names
Term 2, 2020**

Time: Thurs 14:30-17:15pm

Location: online ([backup tbd](#))

Course Overview

This seminar discusses the texts and thinkers of the School of Names (*mingjia* 名家) in ancient China. We will read the texts by Deng Xi 鄧析, Yin Wen 尹文, Gongsun Long 公孫龍, and Hui Shi 惠施, and look examples of sophistry in the *Daodejing*, *Zhuangzi*, *Mozi*, and *Xunzi*. By investigating the key arguments of these thinkers and seeing how they contribute to the development of argumentative thinking in ancient China, we will see that a sophisticated philosophy of language existed in Chinese antiquity that was comparable to or even surpassed that of the Greeks.

Learning Outcomes

1. Become familiar with texts and arguments of the School of Names.
2. Broaden your historical understanding of Chinese philosophy.
3. Appreciate the creative uses of language and ideas by thinkers outside of this School.

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	Weight
Class Participation	-	25%
Oral Presentation	30 minutes	25%
Research Paper	12 pages	50%

Class Presentation:

You will give one presentation lasting 30 minutes based on a reading of your choice. The purpose of the presentation is to highlight the things you find most interesting about the text and to lead the class in discussion. The presentation will be worth 25 points of your final grade.

Research Paper:

You will write one term paper, in English, on any topic related to philosophy of language in ancient China. Comparative papers are allowed. The paper is due on our final lecture. The format is double-spaced, 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 minimum length of each paper is 12 pages, not including the title page and bibliography. The term paper is worth 50 points of your final grade.

Backup plan in case face-to-face teaching and assessment becomes possible

Task	Description	Weight
Class Participation	-	25%
Oral Presentation	30 minutes	25%
Research Paper	12 pages	50%

Grade Descriptor

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

Course Schedule

Lecture	Topic	Readings	Work Due
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			

Readings:

The text we will use for this course is:

Johnston, Ian and Ping Wang (trans). *The Mingjia and Related Texts*. CUHK Press, 2019.

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

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Hours	Appointment by email