

UGEA 2160B
Mainstream Chinese Philosophy
Term 2, 2022
Course Outline

Time : Thur 10:30-13:15

Location : ERB 803

Course overview

This course introduces you to the philosophical thought of ancient China. Specifically, we will discuss the key ideas of Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism, the Sophists, and Buddhism. The goal of this course is to pique your interest in Chinese philosophy while encouraging you to continue learning about it in the future. No prior knowledge of Chinese philosophy is required for this course.

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the key concepts and philosophical issues raised in ancient China.
2. Read and interpret the texts covered in the course.
3. Reflect on the relevance of ancient Chinese philosophy in modern society.
4. Be able to engage in critical discussions on ancient Chinese philosophy.

Topics

See lecture schedule below.

Learning activities

The course consists of lectures and class discussion.

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Oral Presentation	10 mins	15%	tbd
Essay 1	600 words	30%	March 2
Essay 2	1200 words	45%	April 20
Class Attendance	Sign the roster sheet every week	10%	na

If face-to-face teaching is no longer possible due to the covid19 pandemic, we will continue with the above assessment scheme but do so online.

Remarks on Assessment Scheme

Oral Presentation:

Our tutorial time will be used for oral presentations, each lasting 10 mins. You will select one philosophical concept from the chapter covered in lecture and tell the class what you find interesting about it and why (use the headings in each chapter as a guide). Remember you only have 10 minutes to say as much as you can so prepare early! Powerpoint slides are not allowed. You can refer to handwritten notes but do not read them. Everyone will be assigned a topic/date for the presentation and the list will be posted on Blackboard after our first lecture. *It is your responsibility to check this list and record your assigned topic and date.* Failure to give your presentation on the assigned date will result in a loss of marks.

Essays:

To help develop your philosophical thinking, you are asked to write two informal essays. Each essay must be on a different topic and chosen from a list posted on Blackboard. The essay should say why you agree or disagree with the topic, can it be used in your own life and why, and can it be used in someone else's life

and why. *This is not a research paper.* Your goal is to demonstrate how well you can formulate philosophical thoughts and record them as if you were writing a journal. The length of the first paper is 600 words and the second paper is 1200 words. The *format must be:* A4-sized paper, single-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, one-inch (2½ cm) margins. On a separate page, state the following: the course code, your full name and student number, and the submission date. Failure to follow these formatting rules will result in a loss of marks. The first paper is due in class on March 2 and the second paper is due in class on April 20.

Grade Descriptor

See: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Required Reading

Lai, Karyn. *Introduction to Chinese Philosophy.* Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Topics for Oral Presentations

See Blackboard.

Course Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Weekly Readings</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Jan 12	Course Intro	Lai 1-19	
Jan 19	Confucius	Lai 20-40	
Lunar New Year Holiday (Jan 21-27)			
Feb 2	Mencius	Lai 41-54	Class present begin
Feb 9	Xunzi	Lai 55-72	
Feb 16	Mozi	Lai 73-91	
Feb 23	Laozi	Lai 92-129	
March 2	School of Names	Lai 130-162	Essay 1 due
Reading Week (March 6-11)			
March 16	Hanfeizi	Lai 163-187	
March 23	Zhuangzi	Lai 188-223	
March 30	Yijing	Lai 224-264	
April 6	Buddhism I	Lai 265-280	
Easter Holiday (April 7-8, 10)			
April 13	tbd	tbd	
April 20	Buddhism II	Lai 281-304	Essay 2 due

Details of course website

Reading materials and other necessary information will be posted on Blackboard.

Contact details

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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.