

PHIL5070 / 7070
Seminar on Chinese Philosophy

Course Outline

Time : Wed 10:30-13:15

Location : LSK_304

Course overview

This is a postgraduate seminar course devoted to three of the earliest surviving commentaries to the *Daodejing*: the Xiang'er, Heshang Gong, and Wang Bi. Through a close and comparative reading of these commentaries, we will find that Laozi's text was open to radically different interpretation having very different applications to everyday life and our understanding of the world.

Learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary and secondary source texts on the syllabus.
2. Gain competence in explaining and evaluating the key concepts and theories addressed in the course.
3. Be able to articulate and defend a philosophical thesis of their own concerning the issues discussed in the course.
4. Demonstrate progress in their papers toward mastering the expository and critical skills for argumentative writing.

Topics

The *Daodejing* and its early commentaries

Learning activities

To master the *Daodejing* and its early commentaries.

To become more deeply acquainted with Daoist philosophy.

Refining one's skill at researching and writing a long research paper

Assessment scheme (as shown on CUSIS) (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Weekly Discussion	n/a	50%
Research Essay	See below	50%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme

The research paper can be on any topic of your choice so long as it is about the *Daodejing* and/or the commentaries discussed in this course. The length of the paper should be a *minimum* of 8,000 words and is due at the end of the semester.

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

The original Chinese version and their English translations will be made available on Blackboard.

Course schedule

This course is a reading seminar. We will not follow a fixed schedule but discuss as many chapters of the *Daodejing* and its accompanying commentaries as each lecture permits.

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
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Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to the 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.