

UGEA 2160D: Mainstream Chinese Philosophy
Term 2, 2023
Course Outline

Time: Wed 10:30-13:15

Location: LSK LT2

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, 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 in-class discussion.

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date</i>
Essay 1	2 pages	20%	Feb. 21
Essay 2	2 pages	20%	April 3
Exam	In-class Final Exam	50%	April 17
Class Attendance	Sign the roster sheet every week	10%	na

Remarks on Assessment Scheme

Essays:

To help develop your philosophical thinking, you are asked to write two essays. Each essay must be on a different chapter from our textbook. You are to select **one** philosophical concept from the chapter and say why you found it interesting, whether it can be applied to your own life, and how the world might change if everyone applied it to their lives. *This is not a research paper.* Quotations from our textbook are not required. The length of each essay is two pages. **At the top of page 1**, type your full name, student number, and the course code. **You must use 12pt size font, 1-inch margins, and 1.5 line spacing.** Failure to follow these formatting rules will result in a loss of marks. Please print your essays and submit them in class on their due dates: Feb. 21 and April 3.

Exam:

There will be a two-hour, in-class final exam on April 17. It will cover all lectures/readings and contain a mixture of short answer questions and one essay.

Grade Descriptor

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

Course Textbook

Fung, Yu-lan. *A History of Chinese Philosophy*, 2 vols. Princeton University Press, 1952.

Topics for Oral Presentations

See Blackboard.

Course Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Chapter to Read</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Jan 10	Course Intro	Vol. 1, ch. 2	
Jan 17	Roots of CH Philosophy	Vol. 1, ch. 3	
Jan 24	Confucianism I: Confucius	Vol. 1, ch. 4	
Jan 31	Confucianism II: Mencius	Vol. 1, ch. 6	
Feb 7	Confucianism III: Xunzi	Vol. 1, ch. 12	
<i>Lunar New Year Holiday (Feb 9-15)</i>			
Feb 21	Mohism	Vol. 1, ch. 5	Essay 1 due
Feb 28	Daoism I: Laozi	Vol. 1, ch. 8	
<i>Reading Week (March 4-9)</i>			
March 6	Daoism II: Zhuangzi	Vol. 1, ch. 10	
March 13	Legalism	Vol. 1, ch. 13	
March 20	Han Dynasty Thought	Vol. 2, ch 4	
March 27	Wei-Jin Neo-Daoism	Vol. 2, ch. 5	
April 3	Buddhism I: Tiantai	Vol. 2, ch. 9 part 1	Essay 2 due
April 10	Buddhism II: Chan	Vol. 2, ch. 9 part 2	
April 17	In-class Final Exam		

Details of Course Website

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

Professor's 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 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.