

**PHIL4371**  
**Seminar on Chinese Philosophy 中國哲學研討**

**Course Outline**

**Time: W 12:30pm-3:15pm**

**Location: ERB 703**

**Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)**

This is a seminar course devoted to examining selected issues in Chinese philosophy. The specific content of the course varies from semester to semester. Offerings with different subtitles can be taken up for credit, up to a maximum of two times.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

**Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)**

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary and secondary sources 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**

This course will explore the philosophy of John Dewey and how it relates to topics in Chinese philosophy (both Daoist and Confucian). Specific topics will include: philosophies of ontology and nature, knowledge, intelligence, and animal bodies; philosophies of value in the natural world, education, ethics, human nature, family, and spirituality. The course will also explore methods in comparative philosophy.

**Learning activities**

This course will be lecture-and-discussion based. Students will prepare short written summaries and questions for each meeting. There will be two term papers, and students will be required to present thesis summaries of their papers in class.

**Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)**

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Essays	Two 10-page Essays	60%
Others	Daily Written Summary/Question Assignments	30%
Presentation	Two In-Class Thesis Presentations	10%

**Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)****Grade Descriptor**

Please refer to: [http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)

**Recommended learning resources**

Two Required Texts:

*John Dewey and Daoist Thought: Experiments in Intra-Cultural Philosophy, Volume One*, Jim Behuniak (SUNY Press, 2019). ISBN-13: 978-1438474502.

*John Dewey and Confucian Thought: Experiments in Intra-Cultural Philosophy, Volume Two*, Jim Behuniak (SUNY Press, 2019). ISBN-13: 978-1438474465.

**Course schedule**

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Teaching Mode</i> <i>Online / in-campus</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
9/4	Introduction to Dewey, Chinese Thought, and Comparative Method.	In-campus	John Dewey and Daoist Thought, Introduction and Chapter 1.		
9/11	Philosophies of Nature and Ontology in Dewey and Daoism.	In-campus	John Dewey and Daoist Thought, Chapters 2 and 3.		
9/18	Holiday				Class to be Made-Up on 12/2
9/25	Philosophies of Nature and Intelligence in Dewey and Daoism.	In-campus	John Dewey and Daoist Thought, Chapters 4 and 5.		
10/2	Theories of Knowledge and the Body in Dewey and Daoism.	In-campus	John Dewey and Daoist Thought, Chapters 6 and 7.		
10/9	Theories of Value and Inquiry in Dewey and Daoism.	In-campus	John Dewey and Daoist Thought, Chapter 8.		
10/16	In-Class Thesis Presentations on Paper One.	In-campus	No Reading.		

10/23	Comparative Method and Philosophies of Education in Dewey and Confucianism.	In-campus	John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2.		
10/30	Theories of Tradition and Political Philosophy in Dewey and Confucianism.	In-campus	John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Chapters 3 and 4.		
11/13	Ethical Theory, Virtues, and Human Nature in Dewey and Confucianism.	In-campus	John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Chapters 5 and 6.		
11/20	Theories of Family and Human Nature in Dewey and Confucianism.	In-campus	John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Chapter 7.		
11/27	Spirituality and Religiousness in Dewey and Confucianism.	In-campus	John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Chapter 8.		
12/2	In-Class Thesis Presentations on Paper Two.	In-campus	No Reading		Make-Up Class

**Details of course website**

None.

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

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Behuniak, Jim
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	jbehunia@colby.edu

<b>TA</b>	
Name:	None.
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

**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.