

UGEA 2160C: Mainstream Chinese Philosophy
Term 1, 2024
Course Outline

Time: Tues 9:30-12:00	Location: LSK
-----------------------	---------------

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 course schedule below.

Learning Activities

The course consists of lectures and written assignments.

Assessment Scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date</i>
Reflection Papers	1 page @10% each, 4 in total	40%	See below
Comprehensive Test	In-class, final week	50%	See below
Attendance/Participation	na	10%	na

Remarks on Assessment Scheme

Reflection Papers

To help develop your philosophical thinking, you are asked to write **four** reflection papers. Paper 1 must use the reading for either lecture 2 or 3, paper 2 for either lecture 4 or 5, paper 3 for either lecture 6, 7, or 8, and paper 4 for either lecture 9, 10 or 11. From your selected reading, choose **one** philosophical concept and discuss why you think it was important for the ancient Chinese and how it might benefit the world today. Your grade will be based on your ability to develop a philosophical argument and use passages from the course reading to support your position. Summarizing the course reading is not acceptable. At the top of the page, type the course code, assignment number, your name, and student number *in a single line*. You must use 12pt Time New Roman font, 2.5cm (1 inch) margins, and single-line spacing. Submit hardcopies of your papers in class on their respective due dates (see Course Schedule below).

Comprehensive Test

There will be a two-hour, in-class test on Nov. 26. It will cover all lectures and course readings and contain a mixture of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and an essay.

Course Textbook

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

Grade Descriptor

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

Course Schedule

<i>Lectures</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
1. Sept 3	Course Intro	Vol. 1, ch. 2	
2. Sept 10	Roots of CH Philosophy	Vol. 1, ch. 3	
3. Sept 17	Confucianism I: Confucius	Vol. 1, ch. 4	
4. Sept 24	Confucianism II: Mencius	Vol. 1, ch. 6	Paper 1 due
<i>Oct. 1 is a Public Holiday – No Class</i>			
5. Oct 8	Confucianism III: Xunzi	Vol. 1, ch. 12	
6. Oct 15	Mohism	Vol. 1, ch. 5	Paper 2 due
7. Oct 22	Daoism I: Laozi	Vol. 1, ch. 8	
8. Oct 29	Daoism II: Zhuangzi	Vol. 1, ch. 10	
9. Nov 5	Legalism	Vol. 1, ch. 13	Paper 3 due
10. Nov 12	Buddhism I: Tiantai	Vol. 2, ch. 9 (p. 360-383)	
11. Nov 19	Buddhism II: Chan	Vol. 2, ch. 9 (p. 386-406)	
12. Nov 26	<i>In-Class Test</i>		Paper 4 due

Details of Course Website

Course readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Late Submission Policy

Reflection papers that are submitted late (within 24 hours of the due date) will be penalized 5%. Papers that are submitted after 24 hours will not be accepted unless evidence of a medical emergency is provided.

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 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.

Feedback for Evaluation

[A] Course and teaching evaluation survey will be conducted in the second last week of the course. Students are reminded of their responsibility and right to give feedback to facilitate enhancement of the course.

[B] Students are welcome to give feedbacks to the course teacher at any time in person or through emails.

Contact Details

Professor D. Chai
Room 422, Fung King Hey Building
davidchai@cuhk.edu.hk