

PHIL 3131
Pre-Qin Daoist Philosophy
Term 2, 2024
Course Outline

Time: Wed 10:30 am - 1:15 pm

Location: FYB 405

Course Overview

This course offers an introduction to classical Daoist philosophy, focusing on the *Daodejing* and *Zhuangzi*. Rather than take a historical approach to reading these texts, we will do so thematically. Some of the topics we will examine include: the sage, governance, language, and dreams. In addition to learning the fundamental concepts and topics of Daoism, you will also become aware of how they are relevant to modern life, helping you to see the world in a different and more fulfilling light. Knowledge of Chinese is not required for this course.

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the key concepts of and the philosophical issues raised by Daoism.
2. Read and interpret the texts covered in the course.
3. Reflect on the modern relevance of Daoism.
4. Be able to engage in critical discussion, and put forward and defend your own ideas.

Topics

See the lecture schedule below.

Learning Activities

1. Read and give thought to the assigned readings.
2. Develop the skills mentioned above in the Learning Outcomes.
3. Improve your research skills through various writing assignments.
4. Attend lectures and engage others in discussion on the material presented.

Assessment Scheme

Task	Description	Weight
Research Paper Outline	2 pages	15%
Research Paper Draft	Rough draft of paper	25%
Final Research Paper	4,000 words, due end of April	45%
Class Discussion	na	15%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme

Research Paper Outline

The purpose of this outline is to ensure you begin work on your paper as early in the semester as possible. You will be writing a philosophy paper which requires careful thought about your thesis and the sources supporting it. What I am expecting is the following: one paragraph that clearly states what your paper is about and how you plan to argue it (i.e., what you hope to prove); one or two paragraphs for each section of your paper where you will outline your own position and that of others scholars and, very briefly, stating why you agree with them or not; a bibliography containing at least ten sources you plan on using in your paper. The outline is due in class on **Feb. 5**. You must use A4 sized paper, 1-inch (2.5 cm) margins, double-line spacing, and 12 pt. Times New Roman font. State your name, student number,

and course code at the top of the first page. Late submissions will be penalized.

Rough Draft of Research Paper

To assist you with your philosophical writing, you will submit a draft of your paper on **March 26**. This is not the final paper but a working version that is close to completion. The purpose of this draft is to see if your argumentation needs refinement or not, if your illustrative examples and quotations are suitable or not, and so forth.

Final Research Paper

You are to write a research paper on one topic chosen from the lecture schedule; comparative papers are not allowed. Your paper must match your submitted outline. You must provide references for all quoted or paraphrased material. If you decide to use Chinese sources, be sure to translate whatever you quote in your paper but give the Chinese information in your bibliography. The format of your footnotes and bibliography should follow the Chicago style. The length of your paper is to be 8-10 pages, not including the bibliography. The paper is due in class on **April 17**. You must use A4 sized paper, 1-inch (2.5 cm) margins, double-line spacing, and 12 pt. Times New Roman font. State your name, student number, and course code at the top of your first page. Late submissions will be penalized.

Class Participation

You are expected to ask questions and comment about each week's assigned readings and Daoism in general.

Grade Descriptor

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

Required Readings

[1] D.C. Lau, trans. *Daodejing*. Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, 2001.

[2] Burton Watson, trans. *Complete Works of Zhuangzi*. Columbia University Press, 2013.

Course Schedule

	Topic	Readings (LZ=chapter number; ZZ=page number)	Remarks
Jan 8	Course Outline; Background of Daoism	<i>Introductions</i> by Lau and Watson	
Jan 15	Dao	LZ: 1, 4, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 48, 51, 53, 55, 59, 60, 62, 65, 67, 73, 77, 79, 81 ZZ: 14, 45, 50, 66-67, 78-79, 98-107, 113-114, 122-125, 176-185, 197, 276-278	
Jan 22	Non-Being and Emptiness	LZ: 2, 3, 5, 11, 14, 19, 40, 43, 46, 51 ZZ: 9, 12-13, 25, 47, 59, 88-89, 98, 100, 120, 159, 195-197, 226, 295	
<i>Lunar New Year (Jan 28 - Feb 3)</i>			
Feb 5	Heaven and Earth	LZ: 1, 5, 6, 7, 23, 25, 32, 39, ZZ: 10, 11, 45, 50-51, 54, 79, 84-97, 108-118, 132-133, 140, 145, 178-179, 185-186	Paper Outline due

Feb 12	Ethics	LZ: 10, 21, 23, 28, 38, 41, 49, 51, 54, 55, 59, 60, 63, 65, 68, 79 ZZ: 14-15, 22-23, 27, 29-33, 35-39, 55, 60-64, 65-67, 71-72, 74-83, 84-86, 88-94, 98-103, 108-109, 115-116, 122-125, 170, 177, 197, 254-255, 281, 284-285	
Feb 19	Death	LZ: 6, 33, 42, 50, 67, 74, 75, 76, 80 ZZ: 9, 16, 28, 43-45, 47-50, 62-63, 85, 99, 117, 123, 128, 139-140, 142, 160-161, 168, 196, 212, 240-243, 257, 261, 289-290	
Feb 26	Non-Action and Naturalism	LZ: 17, 23, 25, 51, 64 ZZ: 28, 50, 56, 73, 75, 76, 81, 83-85, 87-88, 93, 98-101, 110-111, 114, 120, 123, 140, 145-146, 182, 185, 197-198, 215-217, 223-226, 231, 295	
<i>Reading Week (March 3-8)</i>			
March 12	Selfhood	LZ: 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19, 24, 28, 44, 48, 52, 54, 56, 63 ZZ: 7-12, 19-20, 22-26, 30-31, 40-41, 52-53, 59-64, 74-76, 78-81, 89-90, 118, 120-125, 145-146, 152-153, 165, 168-171, 178-179, 188-198, 231-236, 281	
March 19	Sage and King	LZ: 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 19, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 47, 49, 57, 58, 60, 63, 64, 66, 70, 71, 72, 73, 77, 78, 79, 81 ZZ: 3-4, 15-17, 31-33, 36-40, 42-45, 50, 55-59, 82-83, 88-94, 105-106, 115-116, 119-121, 129-130, 153-154, 166-167, 169-171, 177-179, 188-193, 211-212, 215-217, 276-277, 281-283	
March 26	Language	LZ: 1, 2, 5, 8, 17, 22, 23, 27, 31, 41, 43, 56, 62, 66, 69, 70, 73, 78, 81 ZZ: 8-15, 17, 28, 37, 39-41, 43-45, 59, 72-73, 75, 96, 101-103, 106-107, 112-113, 115, 117-118, 126-133, 135-137, 140, 143, 146-148, 152-153, 165-166, 176-183, 186-187, 193-195, 208, 223-226, 233-237, 241-242, 247, 254, 271-272, 281-282, 289-291, 297-298, 302-304, 356, 374-377	Draft of Paper due
April 2	Emotions	LZ: 2, 12, 35, 41 ZZ: 4, 7-8, 12, 19, 53, 60, 62-63, 66-67, 71, 75, 85, 96, 101, 106, 109-111, 122, 143, 163, 205, 264, 287	
April 9	Dreams	LZ: none ZZ: 16-18, 30-31, 42, 51, 98, 112, 120, 141-142, 172-174, 230-231, 280	

April 17	Freedom	LZ: 2, 12, 20, 27, 43, 48, 49, 57 ZZ: 7, 18, 20-21, 34-35, 39, 46-47, 48-50, 52-53, 56-57, 57-59, 87-88, 98-100, 146-147, 153-154, 181-182, 194, 195-197, 231-236, 281-282	Final Paper due
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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 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/academic_honesty/

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.