PHIL 3141
Neo-Daoist Philosophy
Term 2, 2022
Course Outline

Time：Mon 9:30am-12:15pm	**Location：LSK 206**

Course overview

This course is an introduction to Neo-Daoism, a movement that revived classical Daoist philosophy but injected it with new metaphysical, ethical, medicinal, and political arguments to suit the social reality of post-Han dynasty China (i.e., 2nd to 5th centuries CE). Neo-Daoism was not a formal school of thought but a collection of individuals who had a shared passion for the core texts of classical Daoism: the *Book of Changes*, *Daodejing*, and *Zhuangzi*. Some of the topics we will examine include: being and non-being, health, ethics, and nature (see below for a complete list). In addition to learning about the key figures and topics of Neo-Daoism, you will also learn how they can impact your life and help you see the world in a new and more fulfilling light. Knowledge of Chinese is not required for this course, nor is a background in Chinese philosophy.

Learning outcomes

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

Topics

See lecture schedule below.

Learning activities

The course consists of lectures and discussion. We will use the lecture portion to examine the primary texts (in English translation) while the remaining time will be for oral presentations and discussion.

Assessment scheme

Task nature	***Description***	***Weight***	***Due Date***
Research Paper Outline	1 page, double spaced	10%	Feb 20
Research Paper	5 pages, double spaced	45%	April 17
Oral Presentation	Critique one chapter from course text	20%	tbd
Attendance/Participation	Class attendance and discussion after presentations	25%	n/a

If face-to-face teaching is no longer possible due to the covid19 pandemic, we will continue with the above assessment scheme but do so online.

Remarks on Assessment Scheme

Research Paper Outline:

The outline should clearly define the topic of your paper, its central thesis, and offer a short description of how you plan to divide your argument into smaller sections. A bibliography is not needed, however, I would like to see evidence that you have done some research on your topic by referring to scholars who have publications on your topic.

Research Paper:

You can write on any aspect of Neo-Daoist philosophy but comparative studies are not permitted. Furthermore, the topic of your paper must be the same as your outline. Do not over-quote the primary text or repeat the arguments of other scholars. Developing an original argument of your own makes for a successful paper! The format of your footnotes and bibliography should follow the Chicago style. Be sure to state the course code and name, as well as your own name and student id number, on the first page of your paper.

Oral Presentation:

After each lecture, there will be one or more oral presentations on the chapter related to that lecture from our course text (see schedule below). The length of each presentation will be 15-20 mins. You should first summarize the thesis of the chapter, list its major arguments, and then discuss its strengths/weaknesses.

Participation:

Your involvement in the general discussion after the oral presentations is an important component of this course. You will be expected to ask questions or make comments about each week's assigned reading.

Grade Descriptor

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

Required Readings

Chai, David, ed. *Dao Companion to Xuanxue*. Springer, 2020.

Readings for Oral Presentations

See lecture schedule below.

Course Schedule

Week	***Topics***	***Readings for Presentations***	***Remarks***
Jan 9	Course Intro	Sellmann	
Jan 16	Names and Reality	Rosker	
Lunar New Year Holiday (Jan 21-27)			
Jan 23	Self-Cultivation	Kohn	Presentations Begin
Jan 30	He Yan	D'Ambrosio	
Feb 6	Ruan Ji	Chai	
Feb 13	Ji Kang	Chai	
Feb 20	Wang Bi	Hon	Paper outline due
Feb 27	Wang Bi	Fox	
Reading Week (March 6-11)			
March 13	Pei Wei	Chan	
March 20	Guo Xiang	Fraser	
March 27	Guo Xiang	Lo	
April 3	Ge Hong	Michael	
Easter Holiday (April 7-8, 10)			
April 17	Zhi Dun	Zhang	Research paper due

Details of 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 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.