SHGH PHIL 2259
Introduction to Chinese Philosophy

Language of Instruction: English
Contact Hours: 52 Course hours, one course hour is 45 minutes.
Recommended Credits: 3

East China University - Global China Program
Introduction to Chinese Philosophy
Instructor: ZHANG, Rognan

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Course Description
This course is a comprehensive historical survey of the main philosophical traditions in China, including Confucianism, Mohism, Legalism, Daoism, Buddhism, etc. Through lectures, discussions, and reading of select primary and secondary sources, we will explore the formulations and subsequent transformations of key beliefs, doctrines, practices, and institutions that characterized specific philosophical traditions. We will also discuss the general character of Chinese culture and the impact of Chinese traditions on people’s lives today.

Learning Objectives
Through this course, students can understand the basic ideas of ancient Chinese philosophy, read the classics of Chinese philosophy, and understand Chinese wisdom. The purpose of the course is not only the introduction of knowledge, but also the training of thinking and the cultivation of cross-cultural perspectives.

Required text:
Suggested texts:

Assessment and Final Grade
10% Attendance
20% Special Group Assignments (discussions and presentations)
35% Midterm essay
35% Final Exam
A 94-100
A- 90-93
B+ 87-89
B 84-86
B- 80-83
C+ 77-79
C 70-76
D 60-69
F 0-59

Course Requirements
No Chinese foundation is needed, but if students are interested in Chinese culture and Chinese philosophy, the course will greatly enrich their understanding of Chinese culture.

Weekly Schedule
Weekly Topic Reading
1 Pre-Confucianism Introduction to Chinese Philosophy (2)
Analects (2) Ch.1 Ch.2
2 Pre-Confucianism Mencius (2) Xunzi (2) Ch.3 Ch.4
3 Pre-Confucianism The Great Learning (2)
The Doctrine of the Mean(2) Ch.5 Ch.6
4 Daoism Laozi's Dao De Jing (4) Ch.7
5 Daoism Zhuangzi's The Equality of Things (2)
Zhuangzi’s The Great Teacher (2) Ch.8
6 Confucianism & Daoism Movie: Eat Drink Men Women (2)
Movie: Pushing Hands (2)
7 Mohism Mohism (4) Ch.9
8 Legalism Legalism (4) Ch.12
9 Chinese BuddhismI Tientai(2) Huayan (2) Ch.24 Ch.25
10 Chinese BuddhismII Chan (2) Movie: Xuan Zang (2) Ch.26
11 Neo-Confucianism Chu Hsi (2) Wang Yangming (2) Ch.34 Ch.35
12 Conclusion The Crisis of Chinese Philosophical Traditions and the Revival of them in Modern China (4)
13 Test

Course Instructor
Zhang Rongnan, Associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, ECNU