

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:

Wing-tsit Chan, A Source Book in Chinese philosophy. Princeton: Princeton U. Press , 1969. (SB)

Suggested texts:

Confucius, Confucius: The Analects. Tr. by D. C. Lau. London: Penguin, 1979.

Mencius, Mencius. Tr. by D. C. Lau. London: Penguin, 1970.

Lao Tzu, Dao De Jing, Tr. By Moss Roberts, Univ. of California Press, 2004.

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