

## SHGH PHIL 2259

### Chinese Philosophy: Neo-Confucianism

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Contact Hours:** 52 course hours. One course hour is 45 minutes.

**Recommended Credit:** 3

#### Course Description

Through the learning of the course “Neo-Confucianism”, the student would have knowledge about the most important part of Chinese Philosophy, i.e., Neo-Confucianism, which synthesizing Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism, dominating pre-modern Chinese intellectual history, even influenced strongly the civilization of whole East Asia. The course will introduce the basic doctrines of Neo-Confucianism, such as cosmology, doctrine of human nature, and the main schools of Neo-Confucian, such as the school of rationality and the school of Heart-mind.

#### Course Objectives

The course will introduce systematically different schools and representative Scholars of Neo-Confucian. Through close readings of selected materials from Song dynasty to Ming dynasty Neo-Confucian works, we hope students to learn Neo-Confucianism basic views of cosmology, doctrine of human-nature, doctrine of self-cultivation and Hermeneutics, furthermore, to understand the peculiarities of Chinese philosophy which different from western philosophy in the fields of metaphysics, epistemology and ethics.

#### Textbooks

- 1) Wing-tsit Chan, *A Source Book in Chinese philosophy*. Princeton: Princeton U. Press, 1969. (SB)
- 2) Chu Hsi and Lü Tsu-ch'ien compiled, *Reflections on Things at Hand*. Tr. by Wing-tsit Chan. New York and London, 1967, Columbia University Press. (RTH)
- 3) Wang Yang-ming, *Instructions for Practical Living and Other Neo-Confucian Writings*, Tr. By Wing-tsit Chan. New York: Columbia University Press.

#### Recommended Readings

- 1) Fung, Yu-lan, *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*. The First Free Press Paperback Edition. New York: The Free Press, 1966.
- 2) Graham, Angus C. *Two Chinese Philosophers: The Metaphysics of the Brothers Cheng*. La Salle, Ill.: Open Court, 1992.
- 3) De Bay, Wm. Theodore. *Neo-Confucian Orthodoxy and the Learning of the Mind-Heart*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1981.
- 4) Munro, Donald J. *Images of Human Nature: A Sung Portrait*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988.
- 5) Bo Mou edited. *Routledge History of Chinese Philosophy*, 2009.

### **Assessment and Grading**

- 1) Absence: In addition to not coming to a class meeting at all, coming to the meeting 30 minutes late or leaving it 30 minutes early or constantly chattering in class will also be counted as being absent once. The absence from a class immediately before or after a break (such as Easter) will be counted as two absences.
- 2) Your participation in class discussions will affect your grades, although not in an explicitly quantitative way.
- 3) The final test will be taken by interview one by one; you will be asked randomly 3-5 questions about the contents of this course, to inspect your knowledge and understandings of Confucianism.
- 4) The final grade will be the average of your score in normal times and your score of the final test. Your final grade in this course will be assessed as follows:

Attendance: 30%

Participation: 30%

Final Test: 40%

### **Course Schedule**

Week1. Introduction

Week2. The Revival of Confucianism in Tang Dynasty

Week3. Cosmology of Neo-Confucian I

Week 4. Cosmology of Neo-Confucian II

Week 5. Cosmology of Neo-Confucian III

Week 6. Doctrine of Human Nature of Neo-Confucian I

Week 7. Doctrine of Human Nature of Neo-Confucian II

Week 8. The School of Rationality in Neo-Confucianism I

Week 9-10. The School of Rationality in Neo-Confucianism II: Chu His

Week 11. The School of Heart-mind in Neo-Confucianism I

Week 12-13. The School of Mind-Heart in Neo-Confucianism II: Wang Yang-ming

Week 14. Examination

### **Course Instructor**

Professor FANG Xudong got his Ph.D. in Chinese Philosophy, Beijing University. Currently he is a full professor in the Department of Philosophy, ECNU. His research interests include Neo-Confucianism, moral philosophy and Confucian tradition. He is the author of more than five books and 90 articles on Chinese Philosophy. He had been academic visitor of Harvard, Oxford and Kyoto University. He had taught Chinese Philosophy in English for foreign graduated students in Fudan University from 2012 to 2014.