

Introduction to Chinese Philosophy

Fall 2018
PHIL XXXX

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I. Course Description

This course introduces students to the philosophical interpretive traditions which have grown up around Confucianism and Daoism. In the process, students will also read the writings of contemporary philosophers who subscribe to these positions.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students should

- Be able to present basic philosophical sketches of Confucianism and Daoism.
- Understand the relationship between the two.
- Be able to meaningfully and critically engage both theories.
- Recognize the impact of these philosophies on contemporary world cultures.

III. Texts

A. Required Texts

Analects, trans. by Edward G. Slingerland (Hackett 2003)

Mencius, trans. by D.C. Lau (Penguin Classics 1970)

Dao De Jing, trans. by Roger Ames and David L. Hall (ISBN: 0345444191)

Sun-Tzu, *The Art of War* trans. by Roger Ames (Ballantine Books: 1993)

Burton Watson, *Chuang-tzu: The Basic Writings* (Columbia University Press 1996)

Additionally, there will be articles placed on electronic reserve.

B. Recommended Texts

Christopher Gowans, *The Philosophy of the Buddha*

Hall & Ames, *Thinking from the Han*

Hall & Ames, *Thinking Through Confucius*

Herbert Fingerette, *Confucius: The Secular as Sacred*

Tu Wei-ming, *Confucian Thought*

V. Assignment Schedule

| | Reading |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Intro: Confucius <i>Analects</i> BK I |
| Week 2 | <i>Analects</i> BKs II-VIII |
| Week 3 | <i>Analects</i> IX-XII |
| Week 4 | <i>Mencius</i> I-II |
| Week 5 | <i>Mencius</i> III-VI |
| Week 6 | Presentations on <i>Secular as Sacred</i> ; <i>Thinking through Confucius</i> ; <i>Confucian Thought</i> |
| Week 7 | Confucianism and Virtue ethics Articles |
| Week 8 | <i>Daodejing</i> 1-20 |
| Week 9 | <i>Daodejing</i> 38-58 |
| Week 10 | <i>Daodejing</i> – translator’s preface (Yes, this is being read <i>after</i> the work) |
| Week 11 | <i>Sun-Tzu</i> Art of War 1-5 |
| Week 12 | <i>Sun-Tzu</i> Art of War 5-10 |
| Week 13 | <i>Chang-Tzu</i> |
| Week 14 | <i>Chang-Tzu</i> |
| Week 15 | <i>Zhaung-zi</i> and Moral Knowledge Articles |