

Introduction to Chinese Philosophy

Fall 2021

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I. Course Description

This course introduces students to what are commonly called the Confucian and Daoist philosophical traditions. As such, it involves 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

- Understand the central role of 道 (*Tao*) in Chinese thought.
- Understand the differing relationship between 道 (*Tao*) and society for Confucian and Taoist traditions.
- Recognize the cultural importance of these traditions for East Asian and world history.
- Be able to articulate these positions in dialogue with Western discussions on autonomy and society

III. Texts

A. Primary Texts (Required)

Analects: With Selections from Traditional Commentaries, trans. by Edward G. Slingerland (Hackett 2003: 872206359)

Mengzi: With Selections from Traditional Commentaries trans. By Bryan Van Norden (Hackett 2008: 087220913X)

Dao De Jing, trans. by Roger Ames and David L. Hall (Ballantine Books 2003: 0345444191)

Sun-Tzu, *The Art of War* trans. by Roger Ames (Ballantine Books 1993: 034536239X)

Zhuangzi: The Essential Writings: With Selections from Traditional Commentaries, trans. By Brook Ziporyn (Hackett 2009: 0872209113)

Additionally, there will be articles placed on electronic reserve.

B. Recommended Texts

Ames, *Confucian Role Ethics* (SUNY 2020: 1438481764)

Hall & Ames, *Thinking from the Han* (SUNY 1997: 791436141)

Hall & Ames, *Thinking Through Confucius* (SUNY 1987: 0887063772)

Herbert, Fingerette, *Confucius: The Secular as Sacred* (Waveland 1998: 1577660102)

Tu Wei-ming, *Confucian Thought* (SUNY 1985: 0887060064)

Van Norden, Bryan, *Virtue Ethics and Consequentialism in Early Chinese Philosophy* (Cambridge 2007: 0521867355)

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>Zhuang-zi</i> and Moral Knowledge Articles
Week 14	Student Presentations
Week 15	Summary