

UGEA2160C: Mainstream Chinese Philosophy
Term 1, 2024

Time: Tues 9:30-12:15

Location: LSK 308

Course Overview

This course introduces you to the philosophical thought of ancient China. Specifically, we will discuss the key ideas of Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism, and Buddhism. The goal of this course is to pique your interest in Chinese philosophy while encouraging you to continue learning about it in the future. No prior knowledge of Chinese philosophy is required for this course.

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the key concepts and philosophical issues raised in ancient China.
2. Read and interpret the texts covered in the course.
3. Reflect on the relevance of ancient Chinese philosophy in modern society.
4. Be able to engage in critical discussions on ancient Chinese philosophy.

Topics

See course schedule below.

Learning Activities

The course consists of lectures and written assignments.

Assessment Scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Date</i>
Written Papers	3 papers, 2 pages @ 15% each	45%	See below
Comprehensive Test	In-class, final week	45%	See below
Class Participation	na	10%	na

Remarks on Assessment Scheme

Written Papers

To help develop your philosophical thinking, you are asked to write **three** short papers. For paper 1 (due Sept. 24), choose one chapter from either lecture 2 or 3. For paper 2 (due Oct. 22) choose one chapter from either lecture 4, 5, or 6. For paper 3 (due Nov. 19) choose one chapter from either lecture 7, 8, or 9. From the chapter you select, choose **two** philosophical concepts and discuss why you think they were important for the ancient Chinese and how they might be beneficial today. Your grade will be based on your ability to develop a philosophical argument and use quotations from the chapter to support your position. Summarizing the chapter is not acceptable. At the top of the page, type the course code, assignment number, your name, and student number *in a single line*. You must use 12pt Times New Roman font, 2.5cm (1 inch) margins, and double-line spacing. Submit a hardcopy of each paper in class on their respective due dates. Late papers will be penalized.

Comprehensive Test

There will be a two-hour, in-class test on Nov. 26. It will cover all lectures and course readings and contain a mixture of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and an essay.

Course Textbook

Fung, Yu-lan. *A History of Chinese Philosophy*, 2 vols. Princeton University Press, 1952.

Grade Descriptor

See: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Course Schedule

<i>Lectures</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
1. Sept 3	Course Intro	Vol. 1, ch. 2	
2. Sept 10	Roots of CH Philosophy	Vol. 1, ch. 3	
3. Sept 17	Confucianism I: Confucius	Vol. 1, ch. 4	
4. Sept 24	Confucianism II: Mencius	Vol. 1, ch. 6	Paper 1 due
<i>Oct. 1 is a Public Holiday – No Class</i>			
5. Oct 8	Confucianism III: Xunzi	Vol. 1, ch. 12	
6. Oct 15	Mohism	Vol. 1, ch. 5	
7. Oct 22	Daoism I: Laozi	Vol. 1, ch. 8	Paper 2 due
8. Oct 29	Daoism II: Zhuangzi	Vol. 1, ch. 10	
9. Nov 5	Legalism	Vol. 1, ch. 13	
10. Nov 12	Buddhism I: Tiantai	Vol. 2, ch. 9 (p. 360-383)	
11. Nov 19	Buddhism II: Chan	Vol. 2, ch. 9 (p. 386-406)	Paper 3 due
12. Nov 26	<i>In-Class Test</i>		

Details of Course Website

Course readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Late Submission Policy

Written papers that are submitted late (within 24 hours of the due date) will be penalized 5%. Papers that are submitted after 24 hours will not be accepted, unless evidence of a medical emergency is provided.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to the University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

Feedback for Evaluation

- [A] Course and teaching evaluation survey will be conducted in the second last week of the course.
[B] You are welcome to give feedback at any time in person or through email.

Contact Details

Professor Chai, Room 422 Fung King Hey Building (davidchai@cuhk.edu.hk)