

PHIL4371
Seminar on Chinese Philosophy 中國哲學研討
Professor: Jim Behuniak

Time: W 12:30pm-3:15pm

Location: ERB 703

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This is a seminar course devoted to examining selected issues in Chinese philosophy. The specific content of the course varies from semester to semester. Offerings with different subtitles can be taken up for credit, up to a maximum of two times. Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary and secondary sources on the syllabus.
2. Gain competence in explaining and evaluating the key concepts and theories addressed in the course.
3. Articulate and defend a philosophical thesis of your own concerning the issues discussed in the course.
4. Demonstrate progress toward mastering the expository and critical skills for argumentative writing.

Topic:

This course will explore the philosophy of John Dewey (and other American philosophers, such as Charles Sanders Peirce and William James) and how their ideas intersect with topics in classical Chinese philosophy (both Daoist and Confucian). Specific topics will include: philosophies of ontology and nature, knowledge, intelligence, and the body; philosophies of value in the natural world, education, ethics, human nature, family, and spirituality. The readings will consist of portions of a two-volume work focused on these topics, and will be supplemented by primary readings (both in American and Chinese philosophy) as well as occasional secondary sources referenced in the two-volume work.

Learning Activities:

This course will be lecture-and-discussion based. There will be two main responsibilities that will determine grades: (1) reading, preparation, and participation, and (2) term papers.

As for the first, assigned readings must be completed in full by the Tuesday prior to each class meeting. By midnight each Tuesday, a short "Reading Response" must be uploaded onto the course Blackboard site. The "Reading Responses" are simple exercises, and will consist of the following: (1) two questions or insights that you have as a result of doing the reading [in about 100 words each], and (2) a list of two topics that you wish to have discussed in class [add page numbers, if relevant]. That is all. The bulk of the work for completing each "Reading Response," of course, is carefully doing the reading.

As for the papers, you will write two term papers on topics of your choice. These papers should be thesis-driven, with adequate expository evidence provided in support of your thesis. We can meet to discuss individual paper topics. The first paper will be due on 10/23. In lieu of our class meeting on 10/23, I will arrange individual, one-hour sessions with each of you to go over your first (midterm) paper. The second (final) paper will be due on 12/9.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Reading/Prep	"Reading Responses," Attendance, etc.	40%
Papers	Two, 8-10 pp. Papers. And In-Person Meeting	60%

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Two Required Texts (provided):

John Dewey and Daoist Thought: Experiments in Intra-Cultural Philosophy, Volume One, Jim Behuniak (SUNY Press, 2019). ISBN-13: 978-1438474502.

John Dewey and Confucian Thought: Experiments in Intra-Cultural Philosophy, Volume Two, Jim Behuniak (SUNY Press, 2019). ISBN-13: 978-1438474465.

Numerous PDF's will also be available on the Blackboard site.

Course Schedule:

Sept. 4 th	Course Introduction/No Reading
Sept. 11 th	Read: 1. Dewey, “Darwinism and Philosophy” (PDF) 2. Peirce, “Doctrine of Necessity” (PDF) 3. Peirce, “Guess at the Riddle” (PDF) 4. James, “Habit” (PDF) 5. Dewey, “Qualitative Thought” (PDF)
Sept. 18 th	Holiday/No Class Meeting In lieu of class, each student will schedule a meeting with me on either Sept. 19 th or Sept. 20 th . Details to follow.
Sept. 25 th	Read: <i>John Dewey and Daoist Thought</i> , Chapter 2. <i>John Dewey and Daoist Thought</i> , Chapter 3.
Oct. 2 nd	Read: 1. Eno, “Cook Ding’s Dao” (PDF) 2. Dewey, “Nature of Method” (PDF) <i>John Dewey and Daoist Thought</i> , Chapter 5.
Oct. 9 th	Read: 1. Dewey, “The Savage Mind” (PDF) 2. Dewey, “Practical Character of Reality” (PDF) <i>John Dewey and Daoist Thought</i> , Chapter 6.
Oct. 16 th	Read: 1. Zhuangzi, “Outer Chapters” (PDF) 2. Zhuangzi, “Well Sweep Episode” (PDF) <i>John Dewey and Daoist Thought</i> , Chapter 7.

Oct. 23rd Mid-Term Papers Due/No Class Meeting

In lieu of class, each student will schedule a one-hour meeting with me to go over the mid-term papers. Details to follow.

Oct. 30th 1. Dewey, “Search for the Great Community” (PDF)
John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Chapter 2.
John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Chapter 4 (pp. 123-146).

Nov. 13th 1. Ivanhoe, “Heaven as a Source” (PDF)
John Dewey and Daoist Thought, Chapter 4 (pp. 136-142).
John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Chapter 5.

Nov. 20th *John Dewey and Confucian Thought*, Chapter 6.
John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Chapter 7.

Nov. 27th 1. Dewey, “Art as Experience, Selections” (PDF)
John Dewey and Confucian Thought, Chapter 8.

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Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to 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/academic/honesty/>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

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.