

## Chinese Classics and Thought: Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism

01:165:220

Spring 2013

TF 11:30 AM-12:50 PM@ FH-B3

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Instructor: Jessey J.C. Choo ([jessey.choo@rutgers.edu](mailto:jessey.choo@rutgers.edu))

### Course Description:

This course introduces students to the three major intellectual traditions of pre-modern China, namely Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism. It examines the emergence of these schools of thought and traces their developments and confluences. The course also familiarizes students with some of the seminal works of each tradition.

### Learning Goals for the Course

- Students will learn about the major ideas, figures, and works of Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism.
- Students will exercise their analytical and expressive skills through weekly discussions of texts and issues.
- Students will practice making classroom presentation and conducting textual analysis.

### Department Learning Goals Met by this Course

- Acquire in-depth knowledge of Chinese culture and history
- Analyze issues concerning China and relate them to other areas in the humanities and social sciences following an interdisciplinary approach
- Effectively use tools (reference works, etc.) and technology appropriate to learning about China

### Course Requirements

Class Participation & Presentation	30%
Weekly Reflection	20%
Paper I	25%
Paper II	25%

### Class Participation & Presentations

Students are required to attend all classes. Should you miss a class, please use the Absence Self-Reporting system (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. Class participation does not mean just attendance. It encompasses 1) attendance at lectures; 2) observation of classroom decorum (no chatting, texting, eating, gaming, or surfing the internet); 3) timely completion of reading assignments (students must bring a copy of the texts to class); and 4) active participation in discussions. Students are to lead the seminar discussion in turn and present the assigned materials. Each student is expected to make several presentations throughout the semester. Everyone is required to come prepared for discussion whether or not s/he is presenting. All of the above are mandatory. Any student who misses more than **FOUR** classes will automatically fail the course.

### Written Assignments

All written assignments will be evaluated based on accurate factual presentation of the topic, the level of critical interpretation/reflection, and clear and logical development of the argument and thesis.

#### A. Weekly Reflections

The weekly analytical reflection will consist of a close reading of one of the assigned primary sources. Students must demonstrate that they have read the specific document carefully, that they are able to connect it with other assigned readings, and that they can articulate intelligently what they understand to be the key questions raised and/or addressed by it. An analytical reflection should not be a simple summary of the content. Each reflection must be between 200 and 300 words, typed, single-spaced, and include a title and word count. Each student must submit one analytical reflection per week. The ten highest grades will be used when calculating the course grade.

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### **B. Papers**

Students are expected to complete two papers in this course. Each paper will be an analytical essay centering on a question drawn from the assigned readings. These papers aim to help students become critical readers and to practice their skills as historians. Students must directly engage with the sources and use them to support their arguments. Each paper will be between 1500 and 1800 words in length, typed, double-spaced, numbered, include a word count, and have proper attribution and citation of sources throughout.

All citations must be done according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* ([http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)).

### **Please note:**

Late submission will not be accepted without prior (meaning at least 24 hours) approval. So be sure to backup all your written works for this course.

### **Academic Integrity**

Under no circumstance will behaviors that violate academic integrity be tolerated. These behaviors include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying fellow students access to information or material, helping others to violate academic integrity, or purchasing essays online or otherwise. All violations will automatically receive no grade and be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Please note that, in the case of plagiarism, ignorance of conventions of attribution and citation is not considered a mitigating circumstance.

### **Students with disabilities**

It is the policy of Rutgers to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or [dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu)) about accommodations.

### **Course Materials Required for ALL students:**

There are two types of course materials, books to be purchased and individual articles and book chapters available for download at the course website. Students must bring a hard copy of the readings assigned for the particular class.

- Stephen R. Bokenkamp, Early Daoist Scriptures, University of California Press, 1997
- P. J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W Van Norden, eds., Readings in Classical Chinese philosophy, Hackett, 2005 (Henceforth Classical Readings)
- John S. Major, trans., The Essential Huainanzi, Columbia University Press, 2012
- Bryan W. Van Norden, Introduction to Classical Chinese philosophy, Hackett, 2011 (Henceforth Classical Philosophy)
- Burton Watson, trans., The Essential Lotus, Columbia University Press, 2002

### **Office Hours**

Tuesday 2-3 PM or by appointment

Course Schedule

\*Indicates a digital copy is available on Sakai  
(Reading must be completed by the date indicated)

**Week 1**

01/22 Tue: Introduction

Classical Philosophy, Ch. 1

01/25 Fri: The Emergence of Confucianism

Classical Philosophy, Ch. 2 and Appendixes A & B

**Week 2**

01/29 Tue: Confucius & Analects

Classical Philosophy, Ch. 3

Classical Readings, Ch. 1: "The Analects," pp. 1-57

02/01 Fri: Mozi

Classical Philosophy, Ch. 4

Classical Readings, Ch. 2: "Mozi," pp. 59-113

**Week 3**

02/05 Tue: Mencius

Classical Philosophy, Ch. 6

Classical Readings, Ch. 3: "Mengzi," pp. 115-159

02/08 Fri: Laozi

Classical Philosophy, Ch. 8

Classical Readings, Ch. 4: "The Daodejing," pp. 161-205

**Week 4:**

02/12 Tue: Zhuangzi

Classical Philosophy, Ch. 9

Classical Readings, Ch. 5: "Zhuangzi," pp. 208-253

02/15 Fri: Xunzi

Classical Philosophy, Ch. 10

Classical Readings, Ch. 6: "Xunzi," pp. 255-309

**Week 5:**

02/19 Tue: Han Feizi

Classical Philosophy, Ch. 11

Classical Readings, Ch. 7: "Han Feizi," pp. 311-361

02/22 Fri: Other Masters — Yang Zhu & Gongsun Long

Classical Readings, Supplemental Text, pp. 363-375

**Week 6: The World of *Huainanzi***

02/26 Tue: *The Essential Huainanzi*, Chs. 1-6

03/01 Fri: *The Essential Huainanzi*, Chs. 7-12

**Week 7: The Emergence of Religious Daoism (I)**

03/05 Tue: "The Xiang'er Commentary to the Laozi"

*Early Daoist Scriptures*, pp. 29-77

03/08 Fri: "The Xiang'er Commentary to the Laozi"

*Early Daoist Scriptures*, pp. 78-148

**Week 8: The Emergence of Religious Daoism (II)**

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03/12 Tue: "The Great Petition for Sepulchral Plaints"  
*Early Daoist Scriptures*, pp. 230-274

**03/15 Fri: No Class/Paper I Due**

### Week 9: Spring Break

### Week 10:

03/26 Tue: China Encountered Buddhism  
\* *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, Vol. 1, Ch. 15

03/29 Fri: No Class

### Week 11

04/02 Tue: Schools of Mahayana Buddhism  
\* *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, Vol. 1, Ch. 16

04/05 Fri: The World of the *Lotus Sutra*  
*The Essential Lotus*, Translator's Introduction, chs. 2 and 3

### Week 12

04/09 Tue: Reading from the *Louts Sutra*  
*The Essential Lotus*, chs. 10, 11, and 12

04/12 Fri: Reading from the *Louts Sutra*  
*The Essential Lotus*, chs. 15, 16, 20, 22 and 25

### Week 13: Ch'an/Zen Buddhism

04/16 Tue: The World of the *Platform Sutra*  
\* *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, Vol. 1, Ch. 17, "The Meditation School," pp. 491-531

04/19 Fri: Ch'an Gong'an

### Week 14: Pure Land Buddhism

04/23 Tue: Reading from the *Platform Sutra*  
\* *Buddhist Scriptures*, "Rebirth in the Land of Bliss," pp. 60-68  
\* *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, Vol. 1, Ch. 17, "The Pure Land School," pp. 481-491

**04/26 Fri: No Class/ Paper II Due**

### Week 15: Syncretism

04/30 Tue: The Wondrous Scripture of the Upper Chapters on Limitless Salvation  
*Early Daoist Scriptures*, pp. 373-438

05/03 Fri: Conclusion