

Philosophy 4140 – Classical Chinese Philosophy

Provisional Syllabus—Fall 2016

Class Time and Location: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:40 AM-10:30 AM, CTIHB 459

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Course Website: Canvas

Course Description: This course will survey seven main thinkers of the "classical" period of Chinese philosophy (approx. 550-221 BCE): Kongzi (Confucius), Mozi, Mengzi (Mencius), Laozi, Zhuangzi, Xunzi, and Han Feizi. These thinkers developed a complex and rich debate about ethics, human nature, moral psychology, and self-cultivation. The positions they established greatly influenced later Chinese history, including the development of Buddhism, and they influenced philosophical discourse in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam as well. Thus, understanding these early debates is an important stepping-stone for understanding East Asian thought generally. Readings will consist mainly of primary texts in translation, with some secondary literature. No previous knowledge of Chinese language or history is necessary. See below for course requirements. (Units: 3.)

Course Objectives:

1. Give students familiarity with the basic figures and terminology of Chinese philosophy.
2. Help students develop the philosophical skills of understanding and constructing arguments.

Required Texts:

Ivanhoe, P.J. and Van Norden, Bryan. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*. **Second Edition**. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2006. (Hereafter, RCCP.) If you buy this book from somewhere other than the University bookstore, please be sure to get the second edition.¹

Other readings are on reserve at Marriott Library (also e-reserve).

Recommended Texts:

Harvey, Michael. *The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2003.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

(Note: The instructor will strive to follow diligently the schedule and plan set out in this syllabus, but this syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor at any time, and students will be given reasonable

¹ This textbook contains materials authored by the instructor and for which the instructor is paid a royalty. Therefore, University Policy 6-316-4.B.10 shall apply. It states:

Any faculty member or employee of the University of Utah with authority to assign or recommend course materials for any course offered by the university shall do so based on sound academic values, without any prospect of personal financial gain. . . . Prior to completion of any course or teaching unit for which a faculty member has assigned or recommended self-authored materials that may generate any royalty or other author's compensation, the faculty member shall request, from all students subject to that assignment or recommendation, an anonymous statement of the number of new copies of such materials purchased by each student. This requirement can be satisfied by a form used for student course evaluations that includes the above inquiry, or by a separate survey submitted for anonymous student response before the end of the course or teaching unit. Upon completion of the survey, the faculty member shall file with his/her department chair or dean a brief statement of the number of new materials purchased as reported in the above survey and the rate of royalty or compensation last paid or contracted by the publisher to be paid. The obligation to avoid prospect of personal financial gain shall be satisfied by including with the above report a written commitment to contribute a sum, equal to the number of new books purchased by students multiplied by the reported royalty or compensation rate, to a tax exempt organization (which may include the University of Utah) not later than six months following completion of the course.

prior notice of any modifications. If/when such modifications are made, a new version of the syllabus will be posted on the course website and will be authoritative over all previous versions of the syllabus.)

Week 1: Introduction & Historical Background

8/22 (Mon): Introduction. No reading.

8/24 (Wed): Cultural Background to Early Chinese Thought. Reading: RCCP, "Introduction" and selections from the *Book of Odes* and *Book of History*, on reserve.

8/26 (Fri): Confucius on Virtue. Reading: Kongzi in RCCP.

Week 2: Confucius

8/29 (Mon): Confucius on Ritual. Reading: Kongzi in RCCP.

8/31 (Wed): Heaven and Humanity in Confucius. Reading: Kongzi in RCCP. Selections from Loudon, "What does Heaven Say?" p. 76-81, on reserve.

9/2 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Kongzi in RCCP. **Quiz**

Week 3: Mozi

9/5 (Mon): **Labor Day: No Class**

9/7 (Wed): Introduction to Mozi. Reading: Mozi in RCCP.

9/9 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Mozi in RCCP.

Week 4: Mozi

9/12 (Mon): Mozi's Moral Psychology. Reading: Mozi in RCCP.

9/14 (Wed): Mozi on Epistemology and Moral Judgment. Reading: Mozi in RCCP.

9/16 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Mozi in RCCP. **Quiz**

Week 5: Mencius

9/19 (Mon): Introduction to Mencius. Reading: Yangism, "Robber Zhi" in RCCP and Mengzi in RCCP

9/20 (Tue): **Short Paper #1 Due at 5:00pm.**

9/21 (Wed): Mencius on Human Nature. Reading: Mengzi in RCCP.

9/23 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Mengzi in RCCP.

Week 6: Mencius

9/26 (Mon): Mencian Intuitionism. Reading: Hutton, "Moral Connoisseurship in Mengzi," on reserve.

9/28 (Wed): Mencius on Politics: Tiwald, "A Right of Rebellion in the *Mengzi*?" on reserve.

9/30 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Mengzi in RCCP. **Quiz**

Week 7: Laozi

10/3 (Mon): Introduction to Laozi. Reading: Laozi in RCCP, Ivanhoe, "Language Appendix," on reserve.

10/5 (Wed): Laozi and the Dao: Reading: Laozi in RCCP.

10/7 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Laozi in RCCP.

Week 8: Fall Break

10/10 – 10/14: **Fall Break—No Class**

Week 9: Laozi

10/17 (Mon): *Wuwei* in Laozi: Reading: Selections from Slingerland, *Effortless Action*, on reserve

10/19 (Wed): *De* in Laozi: Ivanhoe, "The Concept of *de* ("Virtue") in the *Laozi*," on reserve.

10/21 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Laozi in RCCP. **Quiz**

Week 10: Zhuangzi

10/24 (Mon): Background to Zhuangzi: Reading: *Gongsun Longzi*, “On the White Horse” in RCCP.
10/26 (Wed): Introduction to Zhuangzi: Reading: Zhuangzi in RCCP.
10/28 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Zhuangzi in RCCP.

Week 11: Zhuangzi

10/31 (Mon): The Nature of Zhuangzi’s Position: Reading: Ivanhoe, “Was Zhuangzi a Relativist?” on reserve.
11/2 (Wed): Anti-Rationalism in Zhuangzi. Reading: Paul Kjellberg, “Sextus Empiricus, Zhuangzi, and Xunzi on ‘Why be Skeptical?’” on reserve.
11/3 (Thu): **Long Paper #1 Due at 5:00pm**
11/4 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Zhuangzi in RCCP.

Week 12: Xunzi

11/7 (Mon): Introduction to Xunzi. Reading: Xunzi in RCCP.
11/8 (Tue): Please go vote in the election!
11/9 (Wed): Xunzi on Human Nature and Moral Cultivation. Reading: Xunzi in RCCP.
11/11 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Xunzi in RCCP.

Week 13: Xunzi

11/14 (Mon): Moral Agency in Xunzi. Reading: Van Norden, “Mengzi and Xunzi,” on reserve.
11/16 (Wed): Moral Agency in Xunzi. Reading: Wong, “Xunzi on Moral Motivation”
11/18 (Fri): Discussion. **Quiz**

Week 14: Xunzi and Han Feizi

11/21 (Mon): Ritual in Xunzi: Berkson, “Xunzi’s Reinterpretation of Ritual,” on reserve.
11/22 (Tue): **Short Paper #2 Due at 5:00pm**
11/23 (Wed): Introduction to Han Feizi. Reading: Han Feizi in RCCP.
11/25 (Fri): **Thanksgiving Break. No class.**

Week 15: Han Feizi

11/28 (Mon): Han Feizi’s Criticism of Confucianism. Reading: Han Feizi in RCCP.
11/30 (Wed): Han Feizi’s Ideal State I. Reading: Han Feizi in RCCP; Ivanhoe, “Han Feizi and Moral Self Cultivation”
12/2 (Fri): Discussion. Reading: Han Feizi in RCCP. **Quiz**

Week 16: Han Feizi

12/5 (Mon): Han Feizi’s Ideal State II. Reading: Han Feizi in RCCP.
12/7 (Wed): Discussion and Conclusion

12/12 (Mon): Long Paper #2 Due at 5:00pm

Course Requirements:

- A) Students are expected to finish each assigned reading before the class meeting on that assignment. Students are also expected to bring their textbook and copies of the assigned readings with them to class.

- B) Participation: students are expected to participate in discussion in class. For in-class discussion, raising thoughtful questions, responding insightfully to remarks by other students, answering questions from the instructor, and reading aloud (when asked by the instructor) will all count towards fulfilling this requirement. Students who for any reason miss class are still responsible for knowing both the content of lecture and discussion during that session. Office hours are not provided as make-up class sessions; students who miss class should first get notes from classmates and seek out the instructor if they have questions.
- C) Quizzes: Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions designed to assess students' memory and comprehension of course materials. Each quiz may be comprehensive. Quizzes may be given at the beginning or end of class time. In addition to the quizzes listed above, other surprise quizzes may be given.
- D) Short papers: Two papers of 700-1000 words (roughly 2-3 pages) will be due by 5pm on the day indicated. These assignments will test students' comprehension of course materials and their ability to compose written arguments. These exercises will be assessed for the quality of writing, including organization and mechanics, among other factors.
- E) Long papers: Two papers of 1400-2000 words (roughly 4-6 pages) will be due by 5pm on the days indicated. These assignments will test students' comprehension of course materials and their ability to compose written arguments. These exercises will be assessed for the quality of writing, including organization and mechanics, among other factors.

Grading:

Quizzes, 20%; Short Papers, 20%; Long Papers, 50%; Participation, 10%.

(The instructor reserves the right to change this weighting as necessary in order to fulfill the educational mission of the course.)

The grading scale to be used in this course severely penalizes failure to submit an assignment, so students who utterly fail to submit assignments will jeopardize their overall course grade to a much greater extent than students who submit assignments that are of poor quality.

Note: All assignments submitted for a grade in this course must be the student's own work. Plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct may result in a failing grade for the entire course, and the case may be transferred to the University's Academic Misconduct Committee for further judgment. According to the Student code, "Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression" (<http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>). If you have further questions about what constitutes plagiarism or academic misconduct, ask the instructor and consult the University Code.

College of Humanities Academic Misconduct Policy:

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and inappropriately collaborating. Definitions can be found in the Student Code at <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>.

If you are suspected of academic misconduct, the process proceeds according to the rules found in the Student Code, University Policy 6-400(V). According to that policy, after meeting with you, the instructor must determine whether academic misconduct has, in fact, occurred.

—If s/he determines that no academic misconduct has occurred, s/he will document that you are not responsible for any academic misconduct.

—If s/he determines academic misconduct has occurred and this is the **first instance** in which you have been alleged to have committed academic misconduct, s/he will take into account whether the act was intentional or a result of negligence in determining the appropriate sanction, which can be up to failing the course. The sanction will be noted in the resolution of the case and your right of appeal is as specified in Policy 6-400(V).

—If s/he determines academic misconduct has occurred, and you have previously been sanctioned for an act of academic misconduct, and the prior instance of misconduct resulted in a sanction less than failing the course, the department will follow the process to fail you for the course. If the prior sanction was failure of the course, your new act of misconduct will result in failure of the course and the department will also follow the process to seek your dismissal from the program and the University.

ADA Statement:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.