

Phil 214: Chinese Philosophy

Spring, 2002

Class meeting time: T R 11:20am-12:35pm
Classroom: Welles 131
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Instructor: JeeLoo Liu
Office location: Welles 103
Office hours: M W 1-3 PM
or by appointment

**Text: *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*, by Wing-Tsit Chan.
(Sold at **Sundance Books**)**

Course description:

This course will give students a comprehensive outlook on Chinese philosophy as well as Chinese culture. Chinese philosophy has often been characterized as 'humanism.' But this humanism has its cosmological roots. In this course we will trace back to the basic cosmological view of ancient Chinese, and then investigate how several different humanistic approaches under the same cosmological view emerged. After explaining how Confucianism and Taoism took the dominant place in Chinese philosophical tradition, we will also study a school of thought that appears as the result of foreign influences: Chinese Buddhism. Confucianism reemerged after Buddhism, and it became the so-called 'Neo-Confucianism'. We will examine works by various Neo-Confucianists in the Sun-Ming Era and analyze differences in their philosophies. Students are expected to do the assigned readings and participate in class discussion. Attendance is strongly emphasized.

Grading:

6 Short essays (2 pages)	30 %
Mid-term	25 %
Final Exam	25 %
Presentation	10 %
Active class participation	10 %

The Classroom Policies section of the Undergraduate Bulletin:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Furthermore, the College recognizes that students hold primary and ultimate responsibility for their academic performance and accomplishment. While attendance in itself is not a factor in the final grade for a course, students are expected to recognize the importance of regular class attendance and to complete satisfactorily all requirements of all courses in which they are registered.

General policies:

- (1) **All written assignments must be handed in on time and in class. Late assignments will not be accepted.** I will assign essay topics as the semester progresses.
- (2) Prior to each class, students should skim through the assigned reading materials, paying attention to the main ideas. The translator's comments may be skipped in the first reading.
- (3) Every student will be expected to participate in one presentation. The presentation is based on assigned course materials. Several students form a group to give a 30 minutes' presentation of the materials. Each student should hand in his or her own **typed** draft for the presentation.
- (4) **No make-up exam will be given unless you can validate your absence through documentation from the Dean's Office.**
- (5) Final grades will be given on the basis of the following scale: A=95; A⁻=90; B⁺=87; B=84; B⁻=80;..., D=60. To receive a final grade for the course, all assignments must be completed.

Syllabus

Date	Content of discussion	Assignments for this class
T 1/29	Introduction	None
I. Chinese Cosmology		
R 1/31	The Philosophical & Religious Background	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 1
T 2/5	<i>I Ching (The Book of Changes)</i>	Read [handouts]
R 2/7	<i>I Ching (The Book of Changes)</i>	Read [handouts]
II. Chinese Humanism at Its Roots		
[A. Confucianism]		
T 2/12	Confucius: the Superior Man (Gentleman)	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 2
R 2/14	Confucius: Ren (Humanity) and Li (Rites) [Essay #1 due]	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 2
T 2/19	Mencius: On Human Nature	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 3
R 2/21	Hsün Tzu: On Human Nature	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 6
T 2/26	<i>The Great Learning & The Doctrine of the Mean</i> [Essay #2 due]	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapters 4, 5 [selections]
[B. Taoism]		
R 2/28	Lao Tzu: Tao	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 7
T 3/5	Lao Tzu: Wu-Wei (Inaction)	[cont'd]
R 3/7	Chuang Tzu: The Equality of Things [Essay #3 due]	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 8, [A]
T 3/12	Chuang Tzu: Ways of Life	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 8, [B&C]
[C. Moism]		
R 3/14	Mo Tzu: Universal Love	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 9 [A]&[D]

[D. Legalism]

T	3/19	Han Fei Tzu: Legality and Rulership	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 12
R	3/21	Mid-term Exam	
T	3/26	Spring Break	
R	3/28	Spring Break	

III. Chinese Buddhism

T	4/2	(A) The Doctrine of Consciousness (Hsüan-tsang)	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 23
R	4/4	(B) The Doctrine of Perfect Harmony (T'ien-t'ai School)	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 24
T	4/9	(C) The Doctrine of One-and-All (Hua-yen School)	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 25
R	4/11	(D) The Doctrine of Zen [Essay #4 due]	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 26

IV. Neo-Confucianism in the Sun-Ming-Qing Era

T	4/16	(1) Chou Tun-I	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 28
R	4/18	(2) Chang Tsai	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 30
T	4/23	(3) Cheng Hao/Cheng I	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 31-32
R	4/25	(4) Chu Hsi [Essay #5 due]	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 34
T	4/30	(5) Lu Hsiang-shan	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 33
R	5/2	(6) Wang Yang-Ming	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 35
T	5/7	(7) Wang Fu-Chih [Essay #6 due]	Read <i>SB</i> , Chapter 36
R	5/9	Last class: Review and Reflections	

Final Exam: May 14 (Tuesday) 8:00 - 11:00 AM