

**THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**DIVISION OF HUMANITIES**

**HUMA 1810 Introduction to Chinese Philosophy**  
(Fall 2017)

Venue: Rm 2502  
Wednesdays 9:00-11:50

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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the major developments of Chinese philosophy in the traditional period. It will focus specifically on Confucianism, Mohism, Taoism, Legalism and Buddhism for the very reason that not only had these schools exerted significant impacts on the formation of the Chinese mind in the past, but they will also continue to shape the Chinese outlook on life in the future.

Major philosophers from each of these schools will be carefully selected and be introduced in a chronological order. Apart from analyzing the philosophies themselves, the lectures will also examine the historical and cultural backgrounds that gave rise to them.

While primary sources will be utilized extensively and in-depth analysis of them will be undertaken during lectures, it is the very intention of the course that its subject matters be presented in as clear and interesting a manner as possible.

To demonstrate the contemporary relevancy of Chinese philosophy, special effort will also be devoted to relating its profound wisdom to questions that concern ourselves nowadays, both practically and existentially.

**Schedule of Lectures:**

| Weeks | Dates        | Topics            | Required reading    |
|-------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1     | September 6  | Introduction      | 《哲學簡史》 Chapters 1-3 |
| 2     | September 13 | Confucius         | 《哲學簡史》 Chapter 4    |
| 3     | September 20 | Mo-tzu & Yang Chu | 《哲學簡史》 Chapters 5-6 |

|    |              |   |                       |
|----|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| 4  | September 27 | Lao-tzu   | 《哲學簡史》 Chapter 9      |
| 5  | October 4    | Chuang-tzu  | 《哲學簡史》 Chapter 10     |
| 6  | October 11   | Mencius   | 《哲學簡史》 Chapter 7      |
| 7  | October 18   | Hsun-tzu  | 《哲學簡史》 Chapter 13     |
| 8  | October 25   | Han Fei-tzu   | 《哲學簡史》 Chapter 14     |
| 9  | November 1   | The Neo-Taoists   | 《哲學簡史》 Chapters 19-20 |
| 10 | November 8   | Early Buddhism  | 《哲學簡史》 Chapters 21    |
| 11 | November 15  | Buddhism in the T'ang   | 《哲學簡史》 Chapter 22     |
| 12 | November 22  | The Precursors of<br>Neo-Confucianism and<br>the Cheng-Chu School | 《哲學簡史》 Chapters 23-25 |
| 13 | November 29  | The Lu-Wang School  | 《哲學簡史》 Chapter 26     |

The required reading is intended to provide students with background information about the topics to be addressed during lectures, despite the fact that the latter, not infrequently, do not follow suit the former.

### **Grading Scheme:**

#### *I. Sudden quizzes (30%):*

1. To ensure that students will do the reading each time before coming to the lecture, there will be 3 to 4 sudden quizzes in the semester. These quizzes will be given either at the beginning, the middle, or the end of the lecture, without prior notification.
2. Make up quizzes will only be given to those who have sent apologies to the TA in advance. For example, if a student needs to take leave owing to sickness or attending a job interview, s/he must notify the TA by sending him/her an apology before class. Of course, necessary documents, such as invitation letter or medical certificate, will also have to produced either beforehand or afterwards.

#### *II. Reflection essay (30%):*

1. Students are to write a reflection essay on a topic chosen from philosophies taught in the semester.
2. To write the essay, students need not provide such facts as the historical background for the school of thought or a biographical sketch of the philosopher, but go straightforwardly to the philosophy per se. Rather than writing on too broad a subject, they are advised to concentrate on a certain aspect, or even a single concept, of the philosophy.
3. In writing, students should : 1) demonstrate solid understanding of the philosophy of the chosen philosopher, and 2) relate meaningfully the insights gained from the philosophy to their life experiences, directly or indirectly.
4. Essays will normally be marked according to the following scale:

| Grades       | Attributes of the essays  |
|--------------|---|
| C (70)       | 1. Enough understanding of the philosophy of the chosen philosopher.<br>2. Effort to relate the philosophy to their personal and professional experiences.  |
| B (80)       | C plus:<br>1. Clear understanding of the philosophy.<br>2. Insight into the philosophy.<br>3. Logical argument and good organization of the essay.  |
| A (90)       | B plus at least one of the following:<br>1. Supporting their arguments with concrete examples from their personal observations and experiences.<br>2. Applying what is learnt from the philosophy to practical situation.<br>3. Relating the insights gained from the philosophy to their own values and beliefs.<br>4. In one way or another going beyond what is expected of a grade B essay. |
| D (60)       | 1. Little effort to relate to personal or professional experience.<br>2. Reflection and discussion are superficial.<br>3. Lack of Organization.   |
| F (below 60) | Showing little or no understanding of the philosophy.   |

5. The essay will be 1500 words (including punctuation marks) in length. The exact number of words has to be clearly stated at the end of each essay. Marks will be deducted from essay either longer or shorter, which is 10% per 100 words. Students should make the best use of the limited number of words allowed to express their ideas clearly and effectively and consider.
6. The essay is due on Wednesday, November 15. Students should start working early enough to avoid hastily finishing them because of a lack of time. Considering that time is needed for deciding the topic, conducting necessary research, writing and revising the draft before producing the final version, they should at least begin their work one month in advance.
7. Both a hard and a soft copy of each of the essay have to be submitted to the TA before class on the due day, or they will be considered as late submissions, to which a daily penalty of 5% of the marks earned will be applied.
8. The essay is to be neatly typed. Hand-written one will not be accepted.
9. To write a good essay, students are highly recommended to consult other relevant materials, especially those on the “List of Suggested Reading”.

### III. Final examination (40%):

The examination will last for two hours. Students are required to answer both short and essay questions. The short questions will be based on the required reading whereas the essay questions on the lectures. While the former is intended to test how

familiar students are with the basic knowledge on Chinese philosophy, the latter is for the purpose to examine how well they understand its subject matters.

### **Teaching Approach:**

The course will rely primarily on philosophical and philological analysis. However, to facilitate better understanding of the subject matters treated in the course, historical and cultural backgrounds contributing to the developments of Chinese philosophy will also be examined.

With sufficient explication in class, primary sources will be used in this introductory course on Chinese philosophy. It is intended that through direct exposure to texts representative of each of its schools, students will finally attain an original understanding of the entire philosophical tradition.

While lectures will be delivered in as clear and interesting a manner as possible, to ensure that the course is thought-provoking and stimulating, quite often the case, the instructor will go deeply into its subject matters. As a result, the course might become rather demanding and challenging, for which students must be prepared before making up their minds to enroll in it.

Last but not least, conscious effort will be made to relate the wisdom of Chinese philosophy to issues and problems that concern us even nowadays, in both a practical and an existential senses. It is, therefore, hoped that students will put into practice what they have learned from the tradition in their daily life.

### **Student Learning Resources:**

Both the required reading and the ppts for lectures will be uploaded to the CANVAS one week in advance. Students are required to read them before coming to class, so as to ensure the best possible pedagogical effects.

Note that the pdf copies of the reading will be removed from the CANVAS soon after the relevant lectures were over.

All the basic references and some of the suggested reading will be reserved in the Library.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Gain an overall picture of the developments of the major philosophical schools in traditional China.

2. Acquire the methodology with which philosophical enquiry is to be pursued and the way in which the primary sources are to be handled.
3. Attain a rather in-depth understanding of the teachings of the philosophers with regard to their views on such important issues as the fundamental attributes of the ultimate reality, the very nature of human beings, the composition of the self-cultivation or self-uplifting program, the social and political responsibilities of the sages and the worthies, and the salvation project proposed by them.
4. Probe into the cores of their teachings so as to grasp the commonalities shared by all of them, as well as to analyze how they eventually diverge from one another.
5. Make good use of what they have gained from the wisdom of the philosophers to reflect upon their own values and to deepen their own understanding of life.

### **Creation of a Good Learning Experience:**

Note that the instructor of this course is determined to make this course a rewarding and fruitful learning experience for those enrolling in it. Arriving late, chatting to friends after class has started, eating and using mobile phones during lectures are all considered to be inconsiderate and disruptive for your classmates who are there to learn and discourteous to the instructors. Please cooperate with your instructor and TA to create the best possible environment for you yourself and your fellow students.

For more details, you may consult the following ppt prepared by the Undergraduate Studies Administration of the Academic Registry:

[http://tl.ust.hk/conduct/good\\_learning\\_experience.pps](http://tl.ust.hk/conduct/good_learning_experience.pps).

### **Academic integrity:**

The whole University is very serious about upholding academic integrity. Students are required to comply with the Academic Honor Code adopted by the Senate, which is as follows:

1. Honesty and integrity are central to the academic work of HKUST. Students of the University must observe and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty in all the work they do throughout their program of study.
2. As members of the University community, you have the responsibility to help maintain the academic reputation of HKUST in its academic endeavors.
3. Sanctions will be imposed on students, if they are found to have violated the regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

For regulations that help you understand and avoid academic dishonesty, please visit <http://tl.ust.hk/integrity>.

### **Required Reading:**

1. 馮友蘭著；趙復三譯，《中國哲學簡史》（香港：三聯書店(香港)有限公司，2005香港第1版）。B126 .F4212 2005

### **Suggested Reading:**

1. 馮友蘭，《中國哲學史》（香港：三聯書店(香港)有限公司，1992）。B126 .F38 1992 v. 1 & 2
2. 韋政通，《孔子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1996）。B128.C8 W458 1996
3. 王讚源，《墨子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1996）。B128.M8 W37 1996
4. 劉笑敢，《老子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，2005）。BL1900.L35 L576 2005
5. 吳光明，《莊子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。BL1900.C576 W8 1988
6. 陳鼓應，《老莊新論》（香港：中華書局，1991）。BL1900.L35 C5433 1991
7. 黃俊傑，《孟子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1993）。B128.M324 H82 1993
8. 廖名春，《荀子新探》（臺北：文津出版社，1994）。B128.H7 L53 1994
9. 蔡仁厚，《孔孟荀哲學》（臺北：學生書局，1984）。B126 .T6814 1984
10. 李甦平，《韓非》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。B128.H34 L49 1998
11. 李增，《淮南子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1992）。BL1900.H825 L547 1992
12. 韋政通，《董仲舒》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1996）。B128.T824 W459 1996
13. 林麗真，《王弼》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。B128.W2864 L558 1988
14. 湯一介，《郭象與魏晉玄學》（北京：北京大學出版社，2000）。B126 .T264 2000
15. 陳沛然，《竺道生》（臺北：東大圖書公司，2011）。BQ946.U2147 C48 2011
16. 李潤生，《僧肇》（臺北：東大圖書公司，2011）。BQ984.E527 L527 2011
17. 李潤生，《吉藏》（臺北：東大圖書公司，2012）。BQ8809.C557 Y36 2012
18. 楊惠南，《惠能》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1993）。BQ9299.H857 Y35 1993
19. 陳郁夫，《周敦頤》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1990）。B128.C44 C46 1990
20. 黃秀璣，《張載》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。B128.C314 H83 1988
21. 張永儒，《二程學管見》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。B127.N4 C454 1988
22. 陳來，《朱熹哲學研究》（臺北：文津，1990）。B128.C54 C44 1990
23. 林繼平，《陸象山研究》（臺北：臺灣商務印書館，1983）。B128.L834 L56 1983
24. 秦家懿，《王陽明》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1987）。B128.W364 C45 1987
25. 陳來，《有無之境：王陽明哲學的精神》（北京：人民出版社，1991）。B128.W364 C44 1991
26. 張立文，《戴震》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1991）。B5234.T324 C43 1991

### **Useful Databases:**

#### *I. Primary Sources:*

中國哲學書電子化計劃 (<http://ctext.org/zh>)

#### *II. Secondary Sources:*

1. 世紀期刊人文社科精品數據庫文史哲 (1950-1993)
2. 中國期刊全文數據庫——文史哲、教育與社會科學綜合、政治軍事與法律及經濟與管理 (1994-)
3. 臺灣期刊論文索引系統 (1970-)
4. 香港中文期刊論文索引 (1990-)
5. *Bibliography of Asian Studies* (1971-)