

**Division of Humanities
Tentative Course Syllabus**

Course Code: HUMA 3810
Course Title: Taoism and the Chinese Tradition [C][PU]
Course Offered in: Summer 2019
Course Instructor: Professor Simon M H WONG

Course Description:

An introduction to Taoism as a living tradition in the context of Chinese history and culture. It is a living tradition since some of its important ideas like “the soft can conquer the hard” and “not to show one’s intelligence to the fullest extent” are still present in the attitude of life of the Chinese people. To enable students to learn and appreciate the insights of Taoism directly, some scholarly researches and especially the primary texts of the *Laozi* and *Zhuangzi* will be introduced.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

1	Have knowledge and express in their own words the spirits and philosophies of the <i>Laozi</i> and <i>Zhuangzi</i> .
2	Evaluate and apply the Taoist philosophy they have learnt to reflect upon their lives and behavior.
3	Write academic paper and report with basic technique acquired in class.

Weekly Topics:

<p>Week 1 Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Taoism in the context of Chinese philosophy- Historical background of Taoism <p>Week 2-12 Philosophical Taoism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Laozi and the text of the <i>Laozi</i>- Important Chapters of the <i>Laozi</i>- Zhuangzi and the text of the <i>Zhuangzi</i>- Important Chapters of the <i>Zhuangzi</i> <p>Week 13 Neo-Taoism as a development of early Taoism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wang Bi’s commentary on the <i>Laozi</i>- Xiang Xiu and Guo Xiang’s commentary on the <i>Zhuangzi</i>
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Assessments:

Essay: 40%

Final Exam: 40%

Attendance, presentation and discussion: 20%

Readings:

1. 余培林 新譯老子讀本 臺北：三民書局 1973
2. 張松輝 新譯莊子讀本 臺北：三民書局 2005