

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Division of Humanities  
**HUMA5820 Confucianism: Song and Ming Periods**  
Fall 2019

**Instructor:** Professor Simon Wong  
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Office hours: Room 3354; Thursday 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

**Course Description:**

The Song and Ming Confucianism is also called Neo-Confucianism, which has exerted a strong influence not only on the Chinese but also the East Asian culture. It has been argued that Neo-Confucian ethics and values are still active in shaping the Chinese minds today. This course is designed for the study of the major works of some important Confucian thinkers in the Song and Ming dynasties of China. Emphasis is on closed reading and discussion of a selected number of texts. Students are expected to have basic knowledge of traditional Chinese philosophy (Confucianism, Taoism and Chinese Buddhism).

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

On completion of this course, students will: 1. have basic knowledge of the philosophies of some great Neo-Confucian thinkers and important concepts and issues of Neo-Confucianism; 2. be familiar with secondary resource on the topic they have chosen for their term paper; 3. acquire basic technique in giving an oral academic presentation and writing an academic paper; 4. be able to evaluate and apply the philosophies they have learnt to reflect upon their own lives and behavior.

**Tentative Schedule of Seminars:**

Weeks 1-2 Introduction: The Background of Neo-Confucianism

Han Yu's 韓愈 "Yuan-hsing" 原性, "Yuan-tao" 原道 and Li Ao's 李翱  
"Fu-hsing shu" 復性書

3-4 Chou Tun-yi's 周敦頤 "Tung shu" 通書 and "Tai-chi t'u-shuo" 太極圖說

5-6 Chang Tsai's 張載 "Hsi-ming" 西銘 and "Cheng-meng" 正蒙

7 Cheng Hao's 程顥 "Shi-ren p'ien" 識仁篇, "Ting-hsing shu" 定性書 and  
"yü-lu" 語錄

8 Cheng Yi's 程頤 "Yen-tzu shuo-hao he-hsüeh lun" 顏子所好何學論, "Yu  
Yang Shih lun Hsi-ming shu" 與楊時論西銘書 and "yü-lu" 語錄

9-10 Chu Hsi's 朱熹 "Ren shuo" 仁說, "Ming-tao lun hsing shuo" 明道論性說, "Yu Hu-nan chu-kung lun chong-he ti-i shu" 與湖南諸公論中和第一書, "Kuan-hsin shuo" 觀心說 and "yü-lu" 語錄

11 Lu Hsiang-shan's 陸象山 "yü-lu" 語錄

12 The similarities and differences between the thoughts of Chu Hsi 朱熹 and Lu Hsiang-shan 陸象山

13 Wang Yang-ming's 王陽明 "Ta-hsueh wen" 大學問 and *Chuan-hsi lu* 傳習錄

Conclusion: The Impact and Significance of Neo-Confucianism

### **Course Evaluation:**

End-of-term paper 70%  
Presentation and discussion in class 25%  
Attendance 5%

### **Basic Texts:**

黃宗羲、全祖望. 《宋元學案》.

黃宗羲. 《明儒學案》.

Chan, Wing-tsit. *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.

陳榮捷編著. 《中國哲學文獻選編》. 上、下冊. 台北: 巨流圖書公司, 1993.  
陈荣捷编著. 《中国哲学文献选编》. 南京: 江苏教育出版社, 2006.