HY2003 Chinese Philosophy

Course Details

Time: Wednesdays 2.30-5.30pm
Location: HSS Seminar Room 7

Instructors:

Winnie SUNG
Office: HSS 06-08
Email: whcsung@ntu.edu.sg
Office hours: Thursdays 1-2pm or by appointment

SUN Qingjuan
Office venue: TBA
Email: SUNQ0005@ntu.edu.sg
Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2pm or by appointment

Course Description

This is a co-taught course. The first half of the course (before reading week) will be taught by Winnie SUNG and the second half by SUN Qingjuan. This is an introductory course to the key figures in Chinese philosophy and their intellectual traditions, including Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism, Buddhism, Neo-Confucianism, and Contemporary Chinese Philosophy. The course is organised around thinkers, rather than topics or traditions. The objective of this course is to give you a better idea of the historical development of ideas in each of the traditions and the influences these thinkers have on one another. More emphasis will be put on the pre-Qin, since it is a period of time when major ideas and concepts in Chinese Philosophy originated. Throughout the course, we will explore some of the fundamental philosophical issues raised by early Chinese thinkers (e.g. reality, knowledge, moral cultivation, and the good life) from the perspective of thinkers as well as from our perspective that is informed by contemporary concerns.

Method of Evaluation

1. Class participation 5%
2. Comments and questions 10%
3. Short essay 20% (Sep 16)
4. Short essay 25% (Oct 28)
5. Final term paper 40% (Nov 21)
Class Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate actively in the lectures and group discussions.

Comments and Questions

After the second lecture, students should start writing comments and questions on the assigned readings. Comments can be very brief (about 150 words) along with one or two questions you would like to raise.

You are required to submit at least five comments. You cannot submit all five comments at once. The comment has to correspond to the weekly readings and be sent to the instructors before class Wednesdays at 12pm. The comments will be graded collectively at the end of the course so that your grade reflects the progress you have made in the course.

It is important to show in your comments that you are following the course and that you are thinking through the materials and have questions to ask. The objectives of this assessment are to help you stay on track with the course and to develop your critical thinking skills.

Essays

There will be two short essays (around 1200 and 2000 words) and one long final essay (around 3000 words).

Essay topics will be announced when it gets closer to due dates. Late essays without the instructor’s approval for extension will incur 3% penalty of the maximum marks available for that assignment per day late. Weekend will count as two days. No mark will be allocated if the essay is submitted later than 14 days.

Extension may be granted for documented medical reasons or special circumstances. Should there be any circumstances that may affect or have affected your work during the term, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden. All students are required to generate Turnitin reports of their submitted essays.
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 10 Introduction</td>
<td>Lai, pp. 1-4; “Chapter 10” #3 “Introduction,” pp. 1-25 Selections from Yijing and Shijing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug 17 Confucianism: Confucius</td>
<td>Lai, “Chapter 2” Selections from primary texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Aug 24 Daoism: Laozi</td>
<td>Lai, “Chapter 6” Selections from primary texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Aug 31 Mohism: Mozi</td>
<td>Lai, “Chapter 4” Selections from primary texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 07 Confucianism: Mengzi</td>
<td>Lai, “Chapter 3,” pp. 35-40 Selections from primary texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sep 14 Daoism: Zhuangzi</td>
<td>Lai, “Chapter 8” Selections from primary texts Short essay due Sep 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sep 21 Confucianism: Xunzi</td>
<td>Lai, “Chapter 3,” pp. 40-54 Selections from primary texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Recess</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 5 Legalism</td>
<td>Lai, “Chapter 9” Selections from primary texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 12 Buddhism</td>
<td>Lai, “Chapter 11” Selections from primary texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 19 Neo-Confucianism</td>
<td>#4 “Chapter 2,” pp. 96-115 Selections from primary texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Oct 26 Neo-Confucianism</td>
<td>#4 “Chapter 2,” pp. 96-115 Selections from primary texts Short essay due on Oct 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 02 Contemporary Chinese Philosophy</td>
<td>#1 “Introduction,” pp.1-14 #1 “Chapter 15,” pp. 305-206 Selections from primary texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 09 Insights from Chinese Philosophy</td>
<td>Lai, “Chapter 1” #2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Essay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources

Primary Textbook

(There is a reserved copy at the HSS library. There are also copies available for sale at the bookstore on campus.)

We use the Pinyin system for the phonetic transcription of Chinese terms. Some of your readings use Wade-Giles system. For conversion table, see: [http://library.ust.hk/guides/opac/conversion-tables.html](http://library.ust.hk/guides/opac/conversion-tables.html)

Additional Readings


Primary Texts and Some Suggested Translations

*The Analects/Lunyu*


*The Mozi*


*The Mengzi*

The *Xunzi*


The *Laozi/Daodejing*


The *Zhuangzi*


The *Guanzi*


The *Hanfenzi*


*Essay on the Gold Lion*

*Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*

*Zhuzi Yulei*


**Recommended Secondary Readings**