

SYLLABUS**PHILOSOPHY 370
CHINESE PHILOSOPHY****FALL 2006**

Professor: Peimin Ni, Ph.D.
Phone:
E-mail: nip@gvsu.edu

Office:
Office Hours:

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Lao Zi, *Dao De Jing*, by Roger Ames and David Hall, New York, Ballantine Books, 2003. ISBN: 0-345-44419-1

Chuang Tzu, *Chuang Tzu, Basic Writings*. Trans. Burton Watson, Columbia University Press, 1964. ISBN 0-231-08606-7

Confucius, *The Analects of Confucius, A Philosophical Translation*, by Roger Ames and Henry Rosemont, Jr. New York, Ballantine Books: 1998. ISBN 0-345-43407-2

Mencius, *Mencius*, Trans. by D.C.Lau, Penguin Books, 1970. ISBN 0-14-044228-6

Hui-Neng, *The Platform Sutra of The Sixth Patriarch*. by Philip Yampolsky, Columbia University Press, 1978. ISBN: 0231083610

Reserved materials in the library.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Hans-Georg Moeller, *Daoism Explained: from the dream of the butterfly to the fishnet allegory*, Open Court, 2004. ISBN: 0-8126-9563-1,

Peimin Ni, *On Confucius*, Wadsworth, 2002. ISBN 0-534-58385-7

Peter Hershock, *Chan Buddhism*, Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2005. ISBN 0-8248-2835-6

COURSE GOALS:

The general goal of this course is to introduce you a philosophical tradition that is very different from, yet no less comprehensive than Western philosophy--so that the scope of our vision can be enlarged, and our understanding of life, reality, knowledge and morality can gain a new depth. Three major Eastern philosophies will be studied, mainly from the Chinese: Daoism, Confucianism, and Zen Buddhism.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class participation. 10% of course grade. By class participation, I mean (a) regular attendance and (b) active participation in class discussions. Illness, emergencies, and faculty-approved activities are grounds for having an absence excused. Unexcused absences will affect your grade significantly (each class hour of unexcused absence will result a 1% of reduction in your total course grade). Any one who has unexcused absence of 10 or more class hours will receive an F.

2. 10 weekly journals and small writing assignments (such as interpreting key terms or passages, comparing different translations). 30% of course grade. Late submissions are subject to penalty. No more than one paper/journal is accepted in any given week.

3. Two essay papers. 5 pages or roughly 1250 words each, type-written, double spaced. 30% of course grade. Papers submitted later than their specified due dates will subject to a penalty of 1 grade per late class period.

4. One midterm and one final exam. 30% of course grade.

COURSE OUTLINE:

(Subject to changes. You are advised to follow the class progression closely rather than relying on this outline completely.)

Introduction.

I. Daoism (Weeks 1-5)

1. *Dao De Jing*

Read the whole book, twice during the period, once from cover to cover, and the second time according to the following schedule.

- (1) Dao as the ultimate reality.
Read chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 14, 21, 25, 32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 42, 43, 51.
- (2) Dao as a way of gaining knowledge
Read chapters 12, 41, 47, 48, 56, 70, 71.
- (3) Dao as a way of life and a way of government. Read the rest of the chapters.

2. *Chuang Tzu*

- (1) Read pp. 1-22; "Free and Easy Wandering;" "In the World of Men."
- (2) "Discussion on Making All Things Equal;" "Autumn Floods."
- (3) "The Great And Venerable Teacher;" "The Secret of Caring for Life;" "Supreme Happiness."

3. Literature:

- (1) Su Shi: "The Red Cliff-I"
- (2) Wang Xizhi: "Preface to Collected Poems from the Orchid Pavilion"
- (3) Tao Yuanming: "The Return"

II. Confucianism (Weeks 6-10.)

1. Confucius, *The Analects* (C); Mencius, *Mencius* (M).

- (1) *Dao* (The Way) and *De* (virtue).
Read: (C) I 12; II 3; IV 8,15; VII 3,6,23; XIX 22.
- (2) This world and other worlds.(Religion or philosophy?)
Read: (C) II 4; III 13; VI 10; VII 21, 23; VIII 7; IX 5; XI 9, 12; XIV 36, 38; XV 9; XVI 8.
(M) p.23; II a4; IV a8; V a5,a6; VII a2,a3.
- (3) Arguments against Legalists and Moists.
Read: (C) II 3, 24; VI 20; XII 11.
(M) I a7; III a5, b9; IV b2.
- (4) Exemplary person and Small man.
Read: (C) XIV 6, 12; XVII 23.
- (5) Benevolence and its related moral characters (*Shu, Zhong, Xiao, Di*, love.)
Read: (C) I 2; II 7,24; IV 15,18; V 16; VI 4,5,30; VII 27; X 17; XI 8,11; XII 2,11,22; XIII 3,18; XIV 22;
XV 24, 36.
(M) I a7, b4; III a5, b9; IV a19, a26, b2, b30; V a1, a2; VII a35.
- (6) Rightness and benevolence.

- Read: (C) XV 28; XVII 8, 13.
(M) p.12; I b7.
- (7) Why be moral.
Read: (C) II 7, 19; III 13; IV 5, 9, 12, 16; V 8; VI 11, 17, 19, 20, 21; VII 4, 12, 16, 22, 30; VIII 8, 10; IX 1, 11, 27; XIII 6; XIX 23.
(M) I a1, 2, 5-7, b1, 4, 12; II a5, 6, b1, 5, 7; III b5, 9, 10; IV a7, 9, 10, 13, 27; VII a4, 12-14, 38, b7.
- (8) Mencius about human nature.
Read: (M) pp.16-28; I a7; II a2; IV b12, 19; VI a1-8, 10-15, 18, b1-2, 15; VII a1, 4, 6, 15, 17-18, 20, 21, 24, b21, 24.
- (9) Other moral characters.(courage, wisdom, *xin*)
Read: (C) I 13; II 13, 22, 24; IV 1, 22, 24; V 6, 9, 7, 11, 21, 22, 25, 28; VI 12, 15, 26, 29; VII 11; VIII 5, 13; XI 13, 16; XII 22; XIII 20, 21, 27; XIV 1, 3, 4, 16, 17, 20, 27, 39, 42; XV 4, 7-9, 16, 27, 37, 41; XVI 14; XVII 1, 17; XVIII 3-4, 6-8.
(M) I a3, b3; III b2; IV b11, 12, 23; V b1; VI b6; VII a9, b37.
- (10) To return to the observance of the rites through overcoming the self.
Read: (C) I 1,4; II 8; III 1, 4, 6, 8, 12, 21; IV 10, 14, 17, 19, 23; V 12, 23; VI 14, 18; VII 1, 11; IX 3, 26; X 10, 12-13; XI 26; XII 1, 8, 21; XIII 3, 19, 23, 25; XIV 12, 19, 24, 29, 30, 32, 35, 42, 44; XV 15, 18-21, 23, 42; XV 17, 10, 25; XVII 15, 24; XVIII 10; XIX 1, 11.
(M) III b3; IV a1-2, 15-17, b9, 25; V b1.
- (11) Learning and teaching.
Read: (C) pp.43-44; I 8, 15-16; II 15, 17; IV 7; V 15; VII 1, 2, 7, 8, 20, 22, 31; IX 3, 8, 25; XI 22; XIII 5; XV 30-32, 39; XVI 9; XVII 8, 9, 19; XVIII 7; XIX 8, 19, 21, 22.
(M) IV b15.
- (12) Political thought.
Read: (C) II 1, 3; IV 25; VI 21, 30; VIII 9; XII 1, 13, 17-19, 22; XIII 2, 6, 9, 13; XIV 10, 26, 41; XV 2, 5, 32; XVII 3, 25; XIX 10, 13; XX 1.
(M) I a3, 4, b6, 8; III a3, 4; IV a1, 2, 14; V a6, b9; VII a23, 31, b14.

2. Literature:

Du Fu: "A traveler at Night Writes His Thoughts"
Lu Xun: "New Year's Sacrifice"

IV. Buddhism (Weeks 11-14)

1. History; Teaching of the Buddha; Buddhist schools.

2. Zen Buddhism.

(1) Read Hui-Neng sections 1-23,31,41,45.

(2) Read Hui-Neng sections 24-44.

(3) Read Hui-Neng sections 45-57.

3. Literature:

(1) Zhang Ji: "A Night-Mooring near Maple Bridge"

Review and Final Exam.

DEFINITIONS OF GRADES:

A	100-95	excellent	A-	94-90	almost excellent
B+	89-87	very good	B	86-83	good
B-	82-80	almost good	C+	79-77	quite fair
C	76-73	fair	C-	72-70	less than fair
D+	69-65	poor	D	64-60	very poor
F	59-0	failure			