

PHIL 2120 – Asian Philosophies
The Ohio State University,
Spring 2014

This course is an introduction to Asian philosophies, looked at from both historical and contemporary viewpoints. Philosophical systems we discuss will include Confucianism, Daoism, and various forms of Buddhism, among others. Throughout the semester, we will address many topics, ranging from questions of how to run the ideal state to questions about the nature of reality itself.

Textbook

Required: The required text is Ivanhoe and Van Norden's *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy 2nd Ed.*

Other required readings will be made available via the course's Carmen website.

Optional: You may wish to purchase Dzongar Jamyang Khyentse's *What Makes You Not a Buddhist* to supplement our in class discussion of Buddhism, although this text is not mandatory.

Requirements

There will be four short quizzes, each worth 5% of your grade. There will also be a midterm and a final exam each worth 30% of your grade. The remaining 15% of your grade is for participation, in the form of five required discussion posts on Carmen. The final 5% is for attendance. Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences. If you exceed this number, you receive no points for attendance.

Grading Policy

Grades will be determined based only on factors internal to the course, i.e. the above criteria. Factors external to the course—i.e. GPA requirements for scholarships, law school applications, considerations of GEC credits, and the like—*cannot* and *will not* be considered when determining grades. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Policy on Make-Ups

No make ups will be granted without either (1) written (and approved) notice of absence beforehand, or (2) written documentation of emergency after the fact. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Disability Services

Students who might need accommodations should contact the instructor and the Office for Disability Services as soon as possible. The office is located in 150 Pomerene Hall and can be reached at 614-292-3307.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is a major offense. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the university's policies on such matters. You can (and should) read about them at <http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/>

GE Information

This course counts as a GE Diversity: Global Studies and GE Literature course.

Insofar as the course counts as a GE Diversity: Global Studies course, “students [will come to] understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.” At the end of the quarter, “students [will] understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.” and “recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.”

Insofar as it counts as a GE Literature course, “students [will] evaluate significant texts in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; and critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing,” with the aims of building skills to help “analyze, interpret, and critique significant literary works;” furthermore, “through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students [will] appraise and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.”

We will strive to reach these goals through the careful and critical study of Asian philosophies.

Tentative Schedule

The following is a *tentative* schedule of topics and important dates. Any part of this schedule is subject to change for any reason, though if any of the exam or quiz dates are changed, you will be notified sufficiently ahead of time. More detailed information pertaining to the readings will be provided as we go

Week 1

1/6- Introduction to the Course: Philosophical Primer

1/8- Historical Background to Chinese Philosophy

Read: pgs. xi- xvii

1/10- Confucianism- Introduction to Kongzi

Read: pgs. 1-28

Week 2

1/13- Confucianism- *Analects*

1/15- Confucianism- *Analects*

Read: pgs. 28-55

1/17- Confucianism- *Analects*

Week 3: First discussion post due by Sunday the end of Week 3

1/20- **NO CLASS**

1/22- **Quiz #1**

1/24- Confucianism- *Mengzi*

Read: *Mengzi* (Focus on books 1, 6, 7, 2A6 and 4A17)

Week 4

1/27- Confucianism- *Mengzi*

1/29- Confucianism- *Xunzi*

Read: *Xunzi* (Focus on books 1, 2, 5, 22, and 23)

1/31- Confucianism- *Xunzi*

Week 5

2/3- Mohism

Read: Begin *Mozi* (Pgs. 68-90)

2/5- Mohism

2/7- Mohism

Read: Finish *Mozi* (Pgs. 94-109)

Week 6: Second discussion post due by Sunday the end of Week 6

2/10- Mohism Leftovers, **Quiz #2**

2/12- Legalism

Read: Begin *Han Feizi* (Focus on Chs. 5-7, 12)

2/14- Legalism

Week 7

2/17- Legalism

Read: Finish *Han Feizi* (Focus on Chs. 49 and 50)

2/19- Legalism

2/21- **Midterm Review Session**

Week 8

2/24- **Midterm**

2/26- Daoism- *Daodejing*

Read: *Daodejing* Book One (pgs. 163- 180)

2/28 - Daoism- *Daodejing*

Week 9: Third discussion post due by Sunday the end of Week 9

3/3- Daoism- *Daodejing*

Read: *Daodejing* Book Two (pgs. 181- 203)

3/5- Daoism- *Daodejing*

3/7- **Quiz #3**

SPRING BREAK (No Classes)

Week 10

3/17- Daoism- *Zhuangzi*

Read: *Zhuangzi* Chs. 1-4 (pgs. 208-231)

3/19- Daoism- *Zhuangzi*

3/21- Daoism- *Zhuangzi*

Read: *Zhuangzi* Chs. 14-32 (pgs. 245-250)

Week 11

3/24- Yangism and School of Names

Read: "On the White Horse" and "Robber Zhi," pgs. 363- 374

3/26- Indian Philosophy
3/28- Indian Philosophy

Week 12: Fourth discussion post due by Sunday the end of Week 12

3/31- Indian Philosophy
4/2- **Quiz #4**
4/4- Buddhism- Siddhartha Gautama and Early Teachings
Read: *Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta* (Online) and Khyentse on Dukkha (online)

Week 13

4/7- Buddhism
4/9- Buddhism- Common Teachings and Spread of Buddhism
Read: Khyentse on Emptiness and Impermanence (Online)
4/11- Buddhism

Week 14

4/14- Buddhism- The Way of the Bodhisattva
Read: *Bodhicaryavatara* Ch. 6 (Online)
4/16- Buddhism
4/18- Buddhism- Zen
Read: *Mumonkan* 1-7 (Online)

Week 15: Fifth and final discussion post due by the last day of class

4/21- Last Day of Classes- **Final Exam Review Session**

Final Exam: Tuesday, April 29 from 12:00 – 1:45 in Hagerty Hall 0180 (the same as usual)