

Philosophy 6140 – History of Chinese Philosophy

Course Syllabus—Spring 2009

Class Time and Location: meets with Philosophy 4140 Tue, Thu 9:10 AM-10:30 AM, OSH 111, plus an extra hour-long session (time and location TBA)

Instructor: Eric Hutton

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Course Website: <http://www.hum.utah.edu/philosophy/faculty/hutton>

Textbook Website: <http://www.hackettpublishing.com/content.php?page=red2sup>

(Note: Any updates/changes to the course syllabus will be posted on the website and will be authoritative over any printed version. Students will be given notification of any such changes.)

Units: 3

Course Description: This course offers an intensive, graduate-level survey of the seven main thinkers of the "classical" period of Chinese philosophy (approx. 550-221 B.C.): Kongzi (Confucius), Mozi, Mengzi (Mencius), Laozi, Zhuangzi, Xunzi, and Han Feizi. It also provides an introduction to some of the secondary literature on these figures. No previous knowledge of Chinese language or history is necessary. Course requirements include papers. See below for details.

Required Texts:

Hutton, Eric. *Xunzi* (ms.)

Ivanhoe, P.J. and Van Norden, Bryan. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy. Second Edition.* Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2006. (Hereafter, RCCP.) If you buy this book from somewhere other than the University bookstore, please be sure to get the *second edition*.*

Slingerland, Edward G. *Confucius: The Analects.* Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003.

Van Norden, Bryan. *Mengzi: With Selections from Traditional Commentaries.* Indianapolis: Hackett, 2008.

Watson, Burton. *Mozi: Basic Writings.* New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

———. *Han Feizi: Basic Writings.* New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

* This textbook contains materials authored by the instructor and for which the instructor is paid a royalty. Therefore, University Policy 6-316-4.B.10 shall apply. It states:

Any faculty member or employee of the University of Utah with authority to assign or recommend course materials for any course offered by the university shall do so based on sound academic values, without any prospect of personal financial gain. . . . Prior to completion of any course or teaching unit for which a faculty member has assigned or recommended self-authored materials that may generate any royalty or other author's compensation, the faculty member shall request, from all students subject to that assignment or recommendation, an anonymous statement of the number of new copies of such materials purchased by each student. This requirement can be satisfied by a form used for student course evaluations that includes the above inquiry, or by a separate survey submitted for anonymous student response before the end of the course or teaching unit. Upon completion of the survey, the faculty member shall file with his/her department chair or dean a brief statement of the number of new materials purchased as reported in the above survey and the rate of royalty or compensation last paid or contracted by the publisher to be paid. The obligation to avoid prospect of personal financial gain shall be satisfied by including with the above report a written commitment to contribute a sum, equal to the number of new books purchased by students multiplied by the reported royalty or compensation rate, to a tax exempt organization (which may include the University of Utah) not later than six months following completion of the course.

———. *The Complete Works of Chuang Tzu*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1968.

Other readings will be on reserve.

Schedule of Readings:

Week 1: Introduction & Historical Background

1/13 (Tue): Introduction.

1/15 (Thu): Cultural Background to Early Chinese Thought. Reading: RCCP, “Introduction” and selections from the *Book of Odes* and *Book of History* on reserve.

Graduate Session: Van Norden, “What Should Western Philosophy Learn from Chinese Philosophy?” on reserve.

Week 2: Confucius

1/20 (Tue): Confucius on Virtue. Reading: Ivanhoe, “Kongzi,” on reserve. Slingerland, *Analects*.

1/22 (Thu): Confucius on Ritual. Reading: Slingerland, *Analects*.

Graduate Session: Shun, “*Ren* and *Li* in the *Analects*,” on reserve.

Week 3: Confucius

1/27 (Tue): Confucius on Government and Society. Reading: Slingerland, *Analects*.

1/29 (Thu): Heaven and Humanity in Confucius. Reading: Slingerland, *Analects*. Louden, “What Does Heaven Say?” on reserve.

Graduate Session: Selections from Fingarette and Hall and Ames; Wilson, “Conformity, Individuality, and the Nature of Virtue,” on reserve.

Week 4: Mozi

2/3 (Tue): Introduction to Mozi. Reading: Mozi in RCCP.

2/5 (Thu): Mozi’s Moral Psychology. Reading: Watson, *Mozi*.

2/6 (Fri): Colloquium: Steve Angle (Wesleyan).

Graduate Session: Duda, “Reconsidering Mo Tzu on the Foundations of Morality,” on reserve.

Week 5: Mozi & Mencius

2/10 (Tue): Mozi on Epistemology and Moral Judgment. Reading: Watson, *Mozi*.

2/12 (Thu): Introduction to Mencius. Reading: Yangism, “Robber Zhi” in RCCP and Van Norden, *Mengzi*.

Graduate Session: Ivanhoe, “Mengzi,” on reserve.

Week 6: Mencius

2/17 (Tue): Mencius on Human Nature. Reading: Van Norden, *Mengzi*.

2/19 (Thu): Mencian Intuitionism. Reading: Hutton, “Moral Connoisseurship in Mengzi,” on reserve.

Graduate Session: Nivison, “Two Roots or One?” on reserve.

Week 7: Laozi

2/24 (Tue): Introduction to Laozi. Reading: Laozi in RCCP, Ivanhoe, "Language Appendix," on reserve.
2/26 (Thu): Laozi and the Dao: Reading: Laozi in RCCP. Csikzentmihalyi, "Mysticism and Apophatic Discourse in the *Laozi*," on reserve.

Graduate Session: Creel, "Two Aspects in Early Taoism," on reserve.

Week 8: Laozi

3/3 (Tue): *De* in Laozi: Ivanhoe, "The Concept of *de* ("Virtue") in the *Laozi*" on reserve.
3/5 (Thu): **No Class.**
3/6 (Fri): **First Long Paper Due.**

Graduate Session: Selections from Slingerland, *Effortless Action* on reserve.

Week 9: Zhuangzi

3/10 (Tue): Background to Zhuangzi: *Gongsun Longzi*, "On the White Horse" in RCCP.
3/12 (Thu): Introduction to Zhuangzi: Zhuangzi in RCCP.

Graduate Session: Csikzentmihalyi, "Flow," on reserve.

Week 10: Spring Break

3/17 (Tue): **No Class (Spring Break).**
3/19 (Thu): **No Class (Spring Break).**

Week 11: Zhuangzi

3/24 (Tue): The Nature of Zhuangzi's Position: Watson, *Chuang Tzu*; Ivanhoe, "Was Zhuangzi a Relativist?" on reserve.
3/26 (Thu): Anti-Rationalism in Zhuangzi. Reading: Watson, *Chuang Tzu*; Paul Kjellberg, "Sextus Empiricus, Zhuangzi, and Xunzi on 'Why be Skeptical?'" on reserve.

Graduate Session: Yearley, "The Perfected Person in the Radical Chuang-tzu," on reserve.

Week 12: Xunzi

3/31 (Tue): Introduction to Xunzi. Reading: Hutton, *Xunzi*.
4/2 (Thu): Xunzi's Vision of Society. Reading: Hutton, *Xunzi*.

Graduate session: Ivanhoe, "Xunzi," on reserve.

Week 13: Xunzi

4/7 (Tue): Ritual in Xunzi: Berkson, "Xunzi's Reinterpretation of Ritual," on reserve.
4/9 (Thu): **No Class (Instructor Out of Town).**

Graduate session: TBA

Week 14: Xunzi

4/14 (Tue): Moral Agency in Xunzi. Reading: Van Norden, "Mengzi and Xunzi," on reserve.
4/16 (Thu): Introduction to Han Feizi. Reading: Han Feizi in RCCP.

Graduate session: Wong, "Xunzi on Moral Motivation," and Kline, "Moral Agency and Motivation in the *Xunzi*," on reserve.

Week 15: Han Feizi

4/21 (Tue): Han Feizi's Criticism of Confucianism. Reading: Watson, *Han Feizi*.

4/23 (Thu): Han Feizi's Ideal State. Reading: Watson, *Han Feizi*.

Graduate session: Hutton, "Han Feizi's Criticism of Confucianism and its Implications for Virtue Ethics," on reserve.

Week 16: Han Feizi & Conclusion

4/28 (Tue): Conclusion and Review.

5/4 (Mon): Second Paper Due.

Course Requirements:

- A) Students are expected to finish each assigned reading before the class meeting on that assignment and should bring a copy of the reading to class with them.
- B) Communications from the instructor to the class outside of class time will usually be conducted via e-mail, using the contact information maintained by the registrar. Students who prefer not to use the e-mail address registered with the university must provide the instructor with another e-mail address that can be used to contact them.
- C) Papers: two long papers of 3000-3600 words (approximately 10-12 pages) each. These papers will be due by 5pm on the days listed above, i.e. 3/6 and 5/4. Topics must be cleared with the instructor in advance.

Grading: Long Papers, 80%; Participation, 20%.

(The instructor reserves the right to change this weighting as necessary in order to fulfill the educational mission of the course.)

All written assignments in this course must be the student's own work. Plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct may result in a failing grade for the entire course, and the case may be transferred to the University's Academic Misconduct Committee for further judgment. According to the Student code, "'Plagiarism' means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression" (Student Code, p. 3). If you have further questions about what constitutes plagiarism or academic misconduct, ask the instructor and consult the University Code.

ADA Statement:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.