

PHIL 288: Classical Chinese Philosophy (Culture and Civilization)

Instructor: Dr. Richard Kim

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 2-3p, or by appointment

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Course Description:

This course examines central philosophical traditions in the classical Chinese (pre-Qin) period, with a particular focus on ethical issues. Among the classical texts we will examine are the *Analects*, *Mencius*, *Xunzi* (Confucianism), *Daodejing* and *Zhuangzi* (Daoism), and *Mozi* (Mohism).

In examining these texts we will explore a number of key philosophical issues: (1) What is the nature of the good life? (2) What virtues are necessary to live well? (3) How should we organize our society? (4) Is reason or emotion more fundamental to the good life?

Required Texts:

(1) Philip Ivanhoe and Bryan Van Norden, *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* (Indianapolis: Hackett), 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0872207806

(2) Bryan Van Norden, *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy* (Indianapolis: Hackett), 2011. ISBN-13: 978-1603844680

Method of Evaluation and Grading Procedures:

(1) Two Exams: mid-term (25%), final (30%)

(2) Essay (5-7pp.): 30%

(3) Reading Quiz: 10%

(4) Participation: 5%

Your essay will require you to probe a central philosophical issue discussed by one or more classical Chinese thinkers. You will be given three weeks to write the essay.

Both the mid-term and final exams will include true or false, multiple choice, and essay questions. I will give you the possible essay questions one week ahead. The true or false and multiple choice sections will be based on powerpoint slides.

There will be a reading quiz on most class days but only the 10 highest-scoring quizzes (each worth 1% of total grade) will be counted. Each reading quiz will contain four true or false questions. There will be at least 15 reading quizzes

throughout the semester. There will be no make-up quizzes. Each reading quiz will test your basic knowledge of the readings for that day.

Your class participation grade will be based on your comments (which can take the form of a question) in the discussion forum located in Sakai. The comments can be either about the readings or in-class discussions. For each comment you make you will gain 1%. The comment must be philosophically relevant to a topic we cover in this course. You can contribute at any point in the semester up to (and including) the final class day. If you make five or more comments you will receive the maximum participation score, which is 5%. You may post an original comment *or* respond to a previous comment to get credit.

#### Deadlines:

Your essay must be uploaded on Sakai on the day it is due (before midnight). Unless you provide a legitimate excuse, for each day the assignment is late I will take off one letter grade. For example if it is late one day, an “A” paper will get a “B” and so on.

#### Ground Rules for Class:

The success of this course depends on the active participation of students. So we must create a welcoming intellectual environment that encourages the sharing of thoughts and arguments. Therefore I expect from every student courtesy, kindness, and respect, which you can also expect from me. Any form of bullying will not be tolerated.

#### Disability Services:

Loyola’s Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) offers resources for students needing academic accommodations. Students seeking these accommodations should meet with SSWD to establish eligibility, and can contact the SSWD office in person at Sullivan Center Suite 117, by phone at 773.508.3700, by email at [SSWD@luc.edu](mailto:SSWD@luc.edu), or on the web at <http://www.luc.edu/sswd>. If you will be requesting academic accommodations this semester, please schedule a meeting with me at the beginning of the semester as well, so we can begin to make arrangements. I will grant all requests for accommodations, but these requests must first be approved by SSWD.

#### Grading Scale

Your final grade will be rounded to the nearest percentage point, and will be assigned based on the following scale:

94-100% A

90-93% A-  
87-89% B+  
84-86% B  
80-83% B-  
77-79% C+  
74-76% C  
70-73% C-  
60-69% D  
0-59% F

Policy on Computers and Cellphones:

You may use computers but only for the purposes of writing notes. Cellphone use is not permitted except in the case of an absolute emergency.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. You are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is, and can review the College of Arts & Sciences Statement on Academic Integrity here:

<https://www.luc.edu/cas/advising/academicintegritystatement/> and Loyola's policies related to academic integrity here:

<http://luc.edu/media/lucedu/cas/pdfs/academicintegrity.pdf>. In the case of a violation of these policies, I follow Loyola's recommended sanctions, which read as follows: "Plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will result minimally in the instructor's assigning the grade of "F" for the assignment or examination."

## **Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

Tuesday (1/15): Why Study Classical Chinese Philosophy?

[Read: "Introduction" in *Readings In Classical Chinese Philosophy* ("Readings" from hereon) and "Introduction" in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy* ("Introduction" from hereon)]

Part I: Confucius (Kongzi) and the Roots of Confucianism

Thursday (1/17): Methodology and Introduction to Confucianism

[*Introduction*: Ch. 2, Appendix A: Hermeneutics, or How to Read A Text]

Tuesday (1/22): Becoming a Benevolent (*ren* 仁) Person

[*Readings: Analects*: Books 4, 5, 6, 7, 9]

Thursday (1/24): The Role of Ritual or Rites (*li* 禮)

[*Readings: Analects*: Books 1, 3, 10, and also 12.1]

Tuesday (1/29): Authority, Opposition to Law and Punishments, Politics  
[Readings: *Analects*: Books 2, 12, 13]

Thursday (1/31): Self and Society  
[Readings: *Analects*: Books 1, 14, 15, 16, 17]

## Part II: Mozi: The First Consequentialist Philosopher

Tuesday (2/5): Consequentialism  
[Introduction: Ch. 4]

Thursday (2/7): Mohism and Impartial Care  
[Readings: Mozi: Ch. 8, 11, 16]

Tuesday (2/12): Consequentialism, Reform, and Benefit  
[Readings: Mozi: Ch. 20, 21, 26, 32]

## Part III: Mengzi: Human Nature and Moral Sprouts

Thursday (2/14): Mengzi and Human Nature  
[Introduction: Ch. 6; Readings: Book One, 1A1-1A7]

Tuesday (2/19): Mengzi on profit, relationships, and politics  
[Readings: 1B5-1B8, 3A3-3A5, 3B2, 3B9, 5A2-5A9, 6A10, 7A26]

### [Midterm Exam Review Sheet]

Thursday (2/21): Mengzi and Moral Psychology  
[2A2, 2A6, 7A1-7A45, 7B3-7B37, 4B12, 6A7, 6A8, 6A10, 6A15]

Tuesday (2/26): Mengzi on Human Nature  
[2A6, 4B2 - 4B33, 6A1-6A15, 7A1]

Thursday: (2/28): **IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM**

Tuesday: (3/5): **NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK**

Thursday: (3/7): **NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK**

## Part IV: Daoism: The *Daodejing* of Laozi

Tuesday: (3/12): *Daodejing* and Mysticism  
[*Introduction*: Ch. 8]

**[ESSAY ASSIGNED]**

Thursday: (3/14): What is the *dao*?  
[*Readings*: Ch. 1,6,8,9,10,11,22,24,29,36,38,40,41,45,48,60,62,63,66,68,78]

Tuesday: (3/19): The *dao*, Desires, and Authority  
[*Readings*: Ch. 1,2,3,12,14,20,23,25,30,32,34,35,37,39,  
40,41,42,43,44,53,73, 78]

Thursday: (3/21): Self-Preservation, Anarchist Utopia, Political Tool  
[*Readings*: Ch. 7, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 27, 32, 34, 37, 44, 45, 46,  
47, 51, 54, 56, 57, 58, 70, 80]

Part V: Daoism: *The Zhuangzi*

Tuesday: (3/26): Zhuangzi's Therapeutic Skepticism and Relativism  
[*Introduction*, *Zhuangzi*, Ch. 9]

Thursday: (3/28): Perspectives and Daoist Sagehood  
[*Readings*, *Zhuangzi*, Ch. 1, 3, 17]

Tuesday: (4/2): Acceptance  
[*Readings*, *Zhuangzi*, Ch. 4, 6, 18]

**[ESSAY DUE]**

Part VI: Xunzi: Ritual and the Reformation of Nature

Thursday: (4/4): Xunzi's Confucian Naturalism  
[*Introduction*: Ch. 10]

Tuesday: (4/9): Heaven and Human Nature  
[*Readings*: Xunzi, Ch. 17, 23]

Thursday: (4/11): Heaven and Human Nature  
[*Readings*: Xunzi, Ch. 1, 19, 21]

Part VII: Han Feizi and Legalism

Tuesday: (4/16): Han Feizi and Legalism  
[*Introduction*: Ch. 11]

Thursday: (4/18): Han Feizi  
[*Readings*: Ch. 5, 49]

Tuesday: (4/23): In-Class Movie: Confucius

Thursday: (4/25): Finish In-Class Movie: Confucius

**Final Exam: Tuesday, April 30th, 9-11am**