

**THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES**

**HUMA 1810 Introduction to Chinese Philosophy**  
(Fall 2019)

Professor Charles Wing Hoi CHAN

Venue: Rm 6602, Mondays 13:30-16:20

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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the major developments of Chinese philosophy in the traditional period. It will focus specifically on Confucianism, Mohism, Taoism, Legalism and Buddhism for the very reason that not only had these schools exerted significant impacts on the formation of the Chinese mind in the past, but they will also continue to shape the Chinese outlook on life in the future.

Major philosophers from each of these schools will be carefully selected and be introduced in a chronological order. Apart from analyzing the philosophies themselves, the lectures will also examine the historical and cultural backgrounds that gave rise to them.

While primary sources will be utilized extensively and in-depth analysis of them will be undertaken during lectures, it is the very intention of the course that its subject matters be presented in as clear and interesting a manner as possible.

To demonstrate the contemporary relevancy of Chinese philosophy, special effort will also be devoted to relating its profound wisdom to questions that concern ourselves nowadays, both practically and existentially.

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Gain an overall picture of the developments of the major philosophical schools in traditional China.
2. Acquire the methodology with which philosophical enquiry is to be pursued and the way in which the primary sources are to be handled.
3. Attain a rather in-depth understanding of the teachings of the philosophers with regard to their views on such important issues as the fundamental attributes of the ultimate reality, the very nature of human beings, the composition of the

- self-cultivation or self-uplifting program, the social and political responsibilities of the sages and the worthies, and the salvation project proposed by them.
4. Probe into the cores of their teachings so as to grasp the commonalities shared by all of them, as well as to analyze how they eventually diverge from one another.
  5. Make good use of what they have gained from the wisdom of the philosophers to reflect upon their own values and to deepen their own understanding of life.

### Schedule of Lectures:

Weeks	Dates	Topics	Required reading
1	September 2	Introduction	《哲學簡史》 Chapters 1-3
2	September 9	Confucius	《哲學簡史》 Chapter 4
3	September 16	Mo-tzu & Yang Chu	《哲學簡史》 Chapters 5-6
4	September 23	Lao-tzu	《哲學簡史》 Chapter 9
5	September 30	Chuang-tzu	《哲學簡史》 Chapter 10
7	October 14	Mencius	《哲學簡史》 Chapter 7
8	October 21	Hsun-tzu	《哲學簡史》 Chapter 13
9	October 28	Han Fei-tzu	《哲學簡史》 Chapter 14
10	November 4	The Neo-Taoists	《哲學簡史》 Chapters 19-20
11	November 11	Early Buddhism	《哲學簡史》 Chapters 21
12	November 18	Buddhism in the T'ang	《哲學簡史》 Chapter 22
13	November 25	The Precursors of Neo-Confucianism and the Cheng-Chu School	《哲學簡史》 Chapters 23-25

The required reading, taken from 馮友蘭著；趙復三譯，《中國哲學簡史》，is intended to provide students with necessary background knowledge of the topics to be addressed by the lectures, despite the fact that the lecturer does not always follow suit the views of the reading.

### Grading Scheme:

#### I. Mid-term test (30%):

1. A mid-term test, consisting of several dozens of short questions and two short essays, will be given on October 21.
2. The test will cover all that have been touched upon for the last six weeks.
3. The short questions are designed to test whether students have acquired the necessary knowledge about Chinese philosophy. To be well-prepared for this part of the test, students should make sure that they have studied all the required reading assigned for those weeks.
4. The short essays will test how well students understand Chinese philosophy. To perform well in this category, students should ensure that they have mastered the

concepts being elaborated especially during lectures.

5. Note that no make up test will be given unless unexpected contingencies, such as being sick or attending interview. Yet, students are still required to notify their professor in advance and produce necessary evidence, such as medical certificate or invitation letter, afterwards. Failing to do so will be denied the opportunity to retake the test.

*II. Reflection essay (30%):*

1. Students are to write a reflection essay on a topic chosen from philosophies taught in the semester.
2. To write the essay, students need not provide such facts as the historical background for the school of thought or a biographical sketch of the philosopher, but go straightforwardly to the philosophy per se. Rather than writing on too broad a subject, they are advised to concentrate on a certain aspect, or even a single concept, of the philosophy.
3. In writing, students should : 1) demonstrate solid understanding of the philosophy of the chosen philosopher, and 2) relate meaningfully the insights gained from the philosophy to their life experiences, directly or indirectly.
4. Essays will normally be marked according to the following scale:

Grades	Attributes of the essays
C (70)	1. Enough understanding of the philosophy of the chosen philosopher. 2. Effort to relate the philosophy to their personal and professional experiences.
B (80)	C plus: 1. Clear understanding of the philosophy. 2. Insight into the philosophy. 3. Logical argument and good organization of the essay.
A (90)	B plus at least one of the following: 1. Supporting their arguments with concrete examples from their personal observations and experiences. 2. Applying what is learnt from the philosophy to practical situation. 3. Relating the insights gained from the philosophy to their own values and beliefs. 4. In one way or another going beyond what is expected of a grade B essay.
D (60)	1. Little effort to relate to personal or professional experience. 2. Reflection and discussion are superficial. 3. Lack of Organization.
F (below 60)	Showing little or no understanding of the philosophy.

5. The essay will be 1000 words (including punctuation marks) in length. The exact number of words has to be clearly stated at the end of each essay. Marks will be

deducted from essay either longer or shorter, which is 10% per 100 words. Students should make the best use of the limited number of words allowed to express their ideas clearly and effectively and consider.

6. The essay is due on Monday, November 11. Students should start working early enough to avoid hastily finishing them because of a lack of time. Considering that time is needed for deciding the topic, conducting necessary research, writing and revising the draft before producing the final version, they should at least begin their work one month in advance.
7. Both a hard and a soft copy of each of the essay have to be submitted to the TA before class on the due day, or they will be considered as late submissions, to which a daily penalty of 5% of the marks earned will be applied.
8. The essay is to be neatly typed. Hand-written one will not be accepted.
9. To write a good essay, students are highly recommended to consult other relevant materials, especially those on the “List of Suggested Reading”.

### *III. Final examination (40%):*

1. The examination will last for two hours, during which students are required to answer two essay questions.
2. There will be altogether three questions from which to choose.
3. All of them are comparative questions.

### **Student Learning Resources:**

Both the required reading and the ppts for lectures will be uploaded to the CANVAS one week in advance. Students are advised to read them before coming to class, so as to ensure the best possible pedagogical effects.

Note that the pdf copies of the reading will be removed from the CANVAS soon after the relevant lectures were over.

All the basic references and some of the suggested reading will be reserved in the Library.

### **Creation of a Good Learning Experience:**

Note that the professor is determined to make this course a rewarding and fruitful learning experience for students enrolling in it. Arriving late, chatting to friends after class has started, eating and using mobile phones during lectures are inconsiderate and disruptive for your classmates who are there to learn and discourteous to the professor. Kindly please cooperate to create the best possible environment for yourself and your fellow students.

For more details, you may consult the following ppt prepared by the Undergraduate Studies Administration of the Academic Registry:

[http://tl.ust.hk/conduct/good\\_learning\\_experience.pps](http://tl.ust.hk/conduct/good_learning_experience.pps).

## Academic integrity:

The whole University is very serious about upholding academic integrity. Students are required to comply with the Academic Honor Code adopted by the Senate, which is as follows:

1. Honesty and integrity are central to the academic work of HKUST. Students of the University must observe and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty in all the work they do throughout their program of study.
2. As members of the University community, you have the responsibility to help maintain the academic reputation of HKUST in its academic endeavors.
3. Sanctions will be imposed on students, if they are found to have violated the regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

For regulations that help you understand and avoid academic dishonesty, please visit <http://tl.ust.hk/integrity>.

## Required Reading:

1. 馮友蘭著；趙復三譯，《中國哲學簡史》（香港：三聯書店(香港)有限公司，2005香港第1版）。B126 .F4212 2005

## Suggested Reading:

1. 馮友蘭，《中國哲學史》（香港：三聯書店(香港)有限公司，1992）。B126 .F38 1992 v. 1 & 2
2. 韋政通，《孔子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1996）。B128.C8 W458 1996
3. 王讚源，《墨子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1996）。B128.M8 W37 1996
4. 劉笑敢，《老子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，2005）。BL1900.L35 L576 2005
5. 吳光明，《莊子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。BL1900.C576 W8 1988
6. 陳鼓應，《老莊新論》（香港：中華書局，1991）。BL1900.L35 C5433 1991
7. 黃俊傑，《孟子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1993）。B128.M324 H82 1993
8. 廖名春，《荀子新探》（臺北：文津出版社，1994）。B128.H7 L53 1994
9. 蔡仁厚，《孔孟荀哲學》（臺北：學生書局，1984）。B126 .T6814 1984
10. 李甦平，《韓非》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。B128.H34 L49 1998
11. 李增，《淮南子》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1992）BL1900.H825 L547 1992
12. 韋政通，《董仲舒》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1996）。B128.T824 W459 1996
13. 林麗真，《王弼》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。B128.W2864 L558 1988
14. 湯一介，《郭象與魏晉玄學》（北京：北京大學出版社，2000）。B126 .T264 2000
15. 陳沛然，《竺道生》（臺北：東大圖書公司，2011）。BQ946.U2147 C48 2011
16. 李潤生，《僧肇》（臺北：東大圖書公司，2011）。BQ984.E527 L527 2011
17. 李潤生，《吉藏》（臺北：東大圖書公司，2012）。BQ8809.C557 Y36 2012
18. 楊惠南，《惠能》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1993）。BQ9299.H857 Y35 1993
19. 陳郁夫，《周敦頤》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1990）。B128.C44 C46 1990

20. 黃秀璣，《張載》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。B128.C314 H83 1988
21. 張永雋，《二程學管見》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1988）。B127.N4 C454 1988
22. 陳來，《朱熹哲學研究》（臺北：文津，1990）。B128.C54 C44 1990
23. 林繼平，《陸象山研究》（臺北：臺灣商務印書館，1983）。B128.L834 L56 1983
24. 秦家懿，《王陽明》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1987）。B128.W364 C45 1987
25. 陳來，《有無之境：王陽明哲學的精神》（北京：人民出版社，1991）。B128.W364 C44 1991
26. 張立文，《戴震》（臺北：東大圖書公司，1991）。B5234.T324 C43 1991

### **Useful Databases:**

#### *I. Primary Sources:*

中國哲學書電子化計劃 (<http://ctext.org/zh>)

#### *II. Secondary Sources:*

1. 世紀期刊人文社科精品數據庫文史哲 (1950-1993)
2. 中國期刊全文數據庫——文史哲、教育與社會科學綜合、政治軍事與法律及經濟與管理 (1994-)
3. 臺灣期刊論文索引系統 (1970-)
4. 香港中文期刊論文索引 (1990-)
5. *Bibliography of Asian Studies* (1971-)