

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Division of Humanities  
**HUMA1811: History of Chinese Philosophy**  
**Fall 2024** Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-10:20 am

**Lecturer:** Professor Simon WONG  
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### **Course Description:**

Being an integral part of traditional Chinese culture, Chinese philosophy continues to develop in the modern period and is still dynamic in influencing the minds of the Chinese and even non-Chinese people. This course aims at a historical survey of the developments of Chinese philosophy. Through an introduction to the great Chinese thinkers, the main schools of thought to which they belong, their central theories, and some other important philosophical concepts and issues, students will be guided to explore the evolution of these philosophies against the background of Chinese history and civilization.

To ensure a firm grasp of the subject, in addition to some scholarly research, primary texts will also be introduced, explained and discussed in lectures. It is believed that an understanding of these materials will provide a solid foundation for students to comprehend the philosophies in their originality and may stimulate them for further research into the subjects concerned.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes:**

On completion of the course, students will: 1. have basic knowledge of the philosophies of some great Chinese thinkers, the schools of thought to which they belong, and some other important concepts and issues of Chinese philosophy; 2. be able to comprehend some texts of Chinese philosophy in their originality; 3. acquire basic technique of writing a book report; 4. be able to evaluate and apply the philosophies they have learned to reflect upon their own behavior.

### **Tentative Schedule of Lectures:**

Weeks 1 Introduction: The Background and Spirit of Chinese Philosophy  
2 Confucius: The Great Teacher of Humanity  
3 Mo Tzu: His Doctrine of Universal Love and Others  
4 Yang Chu and His Individualism  
5 Mencius and His Idealistic Confucianism

- 6 The Logicians: Hui Shih and Kung-sun Lung
- 7 Lao Tzu and His Natural Taoism
- 8 Chuang Tzu and His Mystical Taoism
- 9 Hsün Tzu and His Realistic Confucianism
- 10 Legalism: Han Fei Tzu
- 11 Yin Yang Confucianism: Tung Chung-shu
- 12 Neo-Taoism: Hsiang Hsiu, Kuo Hsiang and the Book of Lieh Tzu
- 13 The Establishment of Ch'an Buddhism
- 14 Conclusion: Chinese Philosophy and the Modern World

**Grading Scheme:**

1. Attendance and participation 10%  
--1% will be deducted each time a student is found absent from class.
2. Book report 40%  
--A book report within 2,000 words in length, neatly typed and double-spaced, or clearly hand-written, is due by November 28, 2024.  
--Marks will be deducted for late reports.
3. Final examination 50%  
--Students will usually be given a number of essay questions among which three of them have to be selected and answered. These questions are aimed at testing how well the students understand the subject matter of the course.

**Final Grade Descriptors:**

[As appropriate to the course and aligned with university standards]

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of subject matter, expertise in problem-solving, and significant creativity in thinking. Exhibits a high capacity for scholarship and collaboration, going beyond core requirements to achieve learning goals.
B	Good Performance	Shows good knowledge and understanding of the main subject matter, competence in problem-solving, and the ability to analyze and evaluate issues. Displays high motivation to learn and the ability to work effectively with others.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate knowledge of core subject matter, competence in dealing with familiar problems, and some capacity for analysis and critical thinking. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Has threshold knowledge of core subject matter, potential to achieve key professional skills, and the ability to make basic judgments. Benefits from the course and has the potential to develop in the discipline.

F	Fail	Demonstrates insufficient understanding of the subject matter and lacks the necessary problem-solving skills. Shows limited ability to think critically or analytically and exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals. Does not meet the threshold requirements for professional practice or development in the discipline.
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**Textbook:**

Fung Yu-lan 馮友蘭, *Chung-kuo che-hsueh chien-shi* 中國哲學簡史 (A short history of Chinese philosophy). Hong Kong 香港: San-lian shu dian 三聯書店, 2005.

**Reference:**

Fung Yu-lan, *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*. New York: Free Press, 1966.