

Ancient Chinese Thought

Department: Fudan International Summer Session 2024

Course Code	PHIL170001		
Course Title	Ancient Chinese Thought		
Credit	2	Credit Hours	36+3 tutorial hours (one credit hour is 45 minutes)
Course Nature	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific General Education Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Core Courses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Education Elective Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Courses in General Discipline <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Compulsory Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Elective Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Others		
Course Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Familiarize students with the history of Chinese thought. 2. Help students gain a systematic knowledge of Neo-Confucianism as one of the most important schools of Chinese philosophy. 3. Enhance students' academic research and writing ability. 		
Course Description	<p>This course will provide a high-level introduction to Song-Ming Neo-Confucianism by focusing on the doctrines of four pivotal philosophers in that era, namely, the Cheng brothers (Cheng Hao and Cheng Yi), Zhu Xi, and Wang Yangming. Apart from discourses on their theories of metaphysics, moral cultivation, and human nature, their viewpoints will also be constantly put into comparative perspective in order to further examine the uniqueness of their philosophical reasoning.</p>		
Course Requirements: (Pre-reqs)			
<p>This course has no prerequisite, but some basic knowledge of Classical Chinese and ancient Confucian philosophy (esp. Confucius and Mencius) would be preferred.</p>			
Teaching Methods:			
<p>Lecture instruction plus discussion.</p>			
Instructor's Academic Background:			
<p>Dr. Xiangnong Hu received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and is currently an Associate Researcher of the School of Philosophy at Fudan University. He works principally on Chinese and comparative ethics, with special focus on Confucianism, Zhuangzi, contemporary virtue ethics, and Kant.</p>			

Course Schedule

- Lecture 1 Introduction: The General History of Chinese Philosophy and Neo-Confucianism
- Lecture 2 The Cheng Brothers: An Introduction
- Lecture 3 The Cheng Brothers: Why Be Moral?
- Lecture 4 The Cheng Brothers: Is a Virtuous Person Self-Centered?
- Lecture 5 The Cheng Brothers: Why the Political Is Also Personal?
- Lecture 6 Zhu Xi: An Introduction
- Lecture 7 Zhu Xi: Metaphysics of Human Nature
- Lecture 8 Zhu Xi: The Relationship between Morality and Non-Moral Benefits
- Lecture 9 Wang Yangming: An Introduction
- Lecture 10 Wang Yangming: On the Nature of Morality
- Lecture 11 Wang Yangming: On Human Nature and Self-Cultivation
- Lecture 12 Wang Yangming: On the Origin of Wickedness and Sagehood

The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:

The course instructor will provide questions for reflection at the end of each lecture, and students will also be encouraged to raise and discuss questions with fellow classmates.

Grading & Evaluation:

Mid-Term Quiz (5 multiple-choice questions + 1 short-answer question): 40%
Final Essay (no less than 2500 words in English): 60%

Teaching Materials & References (Including Author, Title, Publisher and Publishing time):

- Angle, Stephen C. and Justin Tiwald. 2017. *Neo-Confucianism: A Philosophical Introduction*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Huang, Yong. 2015. *Why Be Moral?: Learning from the Neo-Confucian Cheng Brothers*. Albany: SUNY Press.
- Ivanhoe, Philip J. trans. 2009. *Readings from the Lu-Wang School of Neo-Confucianism*. Indianapolis: Hackett.
- Ivanhoe, Philip J. ed. 2019. *Zhu Xi: Selected Writings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ivanhoe, Philip J. 2002. *Ethics in the Confucian Tradition: The Thought of Mengzi and Wang Yangming*, 2nd ed. Indianapolis: Hackett.
- Ng, Kai-chiu and Huang Yong ed. 2020. *Dao Companion to Zhu Xi's Philosophy*. Cham: Springer.
- Liu, JeeLoo. 2017. *Neo-Confucianism: Metaphysics, Mind, and Morality*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.

More readings will be provided after the course starts.