

Comparative Philosophy: Chinese and Western

Department: Fudan International Summer Session 2024

Course Code	PHIL170002		
Course Title	Comparative Philosophy, Ancient China and Classical Greece		
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	Some of the key themes and concepts common to ancient Chinese philosophy and Greek philosophy, such as nature, wisdom, and knowledge, have often been discussed and studied in their own terms. We wish to bring the two traditions of thought together and see what happens when one meets her doppelganger.		
Course Description	We examine and compare some important themes and concepts common to both ancient Chinese philosophy and Greek philosophy. In four-weeks' time, we will discuss in turn "saint and sage", "knowing and ignorance", "nature", and "change". Each week's class consists of two lecture sessions (one Chinese and one Greek) and a subsequent discussion session.		
Course Requirements: (Pre-reqs)			
Students should have good English speaking and reading ability.			
Teaching Methods:			
Lectures followed by group-discussion.			
Instructor's Academic Background:			
Cai Qinghua is Associate Professor in Philosophy, Fudan University. She specializes in Chinese philosophy, and in particular Daoist philosophy.			
WANG Wei is Associate Professor in Philosophy, Fudan University. He specializes in Greek philosophy, and in particular Aristotle's natural philosophy and metaphysics.			
Course Schedule			
Week 1: Saint and sage (圣人) Confucian saint, Daoist saint; Socrates, the Stoic Sage, the Christian saint (Perpetua and Felicity).			
Week 2: Knowing and ignorance: what it means to know something according to Laozi, and what it means to know something according to Socrates (Plato) and Aristotle. Some Platonic and Aristotelian texts to be read.			
Week 3: Nature: "Ziran (self-so)" is an important concept in Daoist philosophy and the corresponding			

Chinese characters are 自然, which, in modern Chinese, is translated as “nature”. What is the real meaning of ziran 自然 in Chinese philosophy and what does nature mean in Greek philosophy?

Week 4: Change: How the ancient Chinese and the ancient Greeks viewed “change”. What was the place of “change” in their way of thinking.

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

TBD according to the number and the background of the participants.

Grading & Evaluation:

Course participation: 10%

Group discussion: 20%

Group comment: 20%

A short individual essay: 50%

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

Chan, Wing-Tsit. *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1963.

Schwartz, Benjamin. *The World of Thought in Ancient China*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1985.

Graham, A. C. *Disputers of the Tao: Philosophical Argument in Ancient China*. La Salle, Ill.: Open Court, 1989.

Barnes, Jonathan. *The complete works of Aristotle*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1984.

Cooper, J. M. *Plato Complete Works*. Hackett, 1997.