Phil 345: Philosophies of China
Syllabus for Spring 2015
Instructor: Mary I. Bockover
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Office: BSS 558 & Hours: TWR 9AM – 10:30AM or by appointment
Class in FH 236 on T & R from 11 AM – 12:20 PM

This upper division course for the Philosophy Major and Asian Philosophy Minor will examine some the main schools of Chinese philosophy, starting with an introductory overview and then moving to classical textual material. Course objectives are achieved through the rational analysis of the main principles of these philosophies (a) in themselves, (b) in contrast with each other, and (c) in contrast with some mainstream and nonmainstream Western philosophical and religious traditions. This course is comparative to the degree that it entails a multi-cultural component.

Philosophy Major Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)
1. Students will be able to define concepts and make relevant distinctions using the vocabulary of the philosophical traditions being studied.
2. Students will be able to identify and articulate philosophical views, theories, and arguments.
3. Students will be able to use logical methods of analysis to critically and constructively evaluate philosophical views, theories, and arguments.
4. Students will be able to apply methods of philosophy to specific issues and problems.

Textual Material
An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy by Karyn Lai (Oxford 2008)
Material from the I Ching (Yijing) or The Book of Changes
Material from the Analects (Confucius) and the Mengzi (Mencius)
Material from the Daodejing (of Laozi) and the Zhuangzi (Chuang Tzu)
Material from Buddhist Sutras
FYI—Material from Contemporary Sources on Moodle

Requirements
1) Read relevant material prior to class.
2) Class attendance and participation.
3) Take good notes and formulate interesting (written) questions in light of them.
4) Midterm on Introduction to Chinese Philosophy (50% of written grade*).
5) Final Paper of approximately 10 pages or two shorter 5-page papers (double spaced and typed; 50% of your written grade).

Calendar
Weeks 1-6: An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy (a chapter covered each class)

Week 1
T: Introduction to the course
R: 1 Chinese Philosophy

Week 2
T: 2 Confucius and the Confucian Concepts of Ren and Li
R: 3 The Cultivation of Humanity in Confucian Philosophy: Mencius and Xunzi

Week 3
T: 4 Early Mohist Philosophy
R: 5 Early Daoist Philosophy

*Note: Written grade refers to the total points earned from homework, tests, and other written assignments.
The *Dao De Jing* as a Metaphysical Treatise

Week 4  
T: 6 Early Daoist Philosophy: *Dao, Language and Society*  
R: 7 The Mingjia and Later Mohists

Week 5  
T: 8 Zhuangzi’s Philosophy  
R: 9 Legalist Philosophy

Week 6  
T: 10 The *Yijing* and Its Place in Chinese Philosophy  
R: 11 Chinese Buddhism

Week 7:  
T: Overview for Midterm  
R: **Midterm in class: March 5**

Week 8: Material from the *Yijing* (I Ching)  
T: Discussion of the Chinese concept of change  
R: Practical exercise with the *Yijing* (I Ching)

Week 9:  
**Spring Break**

Week 10: Material from the *Analects* of Confucius (Kongfuzi): Chs. 2, 3, 4, 9, 15  
T: Confucius’ metaphysics and concept of personal identity  
R: Confucius’ moral and religious philosophy

Week 11: Material from the *Mengzi* (Mencius): Chs. 2, 6, 7  
T: Mengzi’s metaphysics and concept of personal identity  
R: Mengzi’s moral and religious philosophy

Week 12: Material from the *Daodejing* (Tao Te Ching) of Laozi (Lao Tzu)  
T: Laozi’s metaphysics and concept of personal identity  
R: Laozi’s moral and religious philosophy

Weeks 13 & 14: Material from the *Zhuangzi* (Chuang Tzu)  
Week 13  
T: Discussion of the Inner Chapters (1-4)  
R: Discussion of the Inner Chapters (5-7)

Week 14  
T: Discussion of other key passages and themes (chs. 12, 13, 14, 17)  
R: Discussion of other key passages and themes (chs. 18, 21, 22)

Week 15: Material from Chinese Buddhism  
T: *Chan*: Heart, Lotus (chapter 25) and Platform (ch. 1) Sutras  
R: *Pure Land*: Amitabha and Meditation Sutras

Week 16  
T: No class: paper writing & revision  
R: No class: paper writing & revision

Week 17: Finals Week  
T: **Final paper(s) due electronically only by May 12**

*Grading Scale for Exams: Points to Letter Grades (for Grade Point System see HSU Catalog)*

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