SYLLABUS

Phil 385: History of Philosophy: China (major)
Instructor: Mary I. Bockover
Office: BSS 558
Office Hours: T-R 15:30 – 16:30, R 8:00 – 9:00
Phone: 707.826.5752
Email: mib1@humboldt.edu
Website: http://users.humboldt.edu/mibockover

This upper division course (for the Philosophy Major) will examine the Chinese philosophies of Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism. We start, however, by studying the classic *I Ching*, a book of divination and of wisdom. The main goal is to provide students with an understanding of these philosophies in their own right, as well as a comparative understanding of them. This comparative understanding will involve an analysis of some similarities and differences between the Chinese philosophies themselves, and how they stand in relation to some traditional Western views. We begin with another comparison first, for all of these philosophies are also traditional religions in China. So we must distinguish philosophy from religion and religious studies, as this course offers a *conceptual* analysis – e.g., metaphysically, ethically, and epistemically – of perspectives that may be vastly different from one’s own. Paradoxically, looking at such differences can lead to an even fuller appreciation of what it means to be a human being. The method for accomplishing this goal is *philosophical* – 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 Western philosophical and religious traditions.

Text
*A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy* translated and compiled by Wing-tsit Chan

Requirements
1) Read relevant material *prior* to class.
2) Two philosophy papers, approximately 7 pages, double-spaced and typed (each worth half of your written grade). Each paper must be re-written at least 3 times before it is handed in. Rough drafts are not considered essays.
3) Class attendance and participation.

Readings
The following readings, mainly from the *Sourcebook*, are resources for learning and discussion. Other references will be given electronically and/or can be found in the library.

Week 1: Introduction to Chinese Philosophy

Weeks 2 though 4: Material on the *I Ching* available online (selected material)
Material from Chinese Philosophy Internet Resources link: *I Ching*
Xeroxed material also available from the Wilhelm translation of the *I Ching*
Ch. 13. The Philosophy of Change in the Sourcebook (pages 262–270; 8 total)*
Weeks 5 through 7: Material on Taoism
Material from Chinese Philosophy Internet Resources link: Zhuangzi

Ch. 8. The Mystical Way of Chuang Tzu (pages 177-210; 33 total) *
Ch. 19. Neo-Taoism (pages 314-336; 22 total) *

Weeks 8 through 10: Material on Confucianism
First paper is due, Tuesday of 8th week: October 12
Material from Chinese Philosophy Internet Resources link: Mengzi, Daxue, and Zhongyong
Ch. 3. Idealistic Confucianism: Mencius (pages 49-83; 34 total) *
Ch. 4. Moral and Social Programs: The Great Learning (pages 84-94; 10 total) *
Ch. 5. Spiritual Dimensions: The Doctrine of the Mean (pages 95-114; 19 total) *

Weeks 11 through 13: Material on Buddhism
Ch. 22. The Philosophy of Emptiness (pages 357-369; 12 total) *
Ch. 23. Buddhist Idealism (pages 370-396; 26 total) *
Ch. 25. The One-and-All Philosophy (pages 406-424; 18 total) *
Ch. 26. The Zen (Ch’an) School of Sudden Enlightenment (pages 425-449; 24 total) *

Material from Chinese Philosophy Internet Resources link
Xeroxed material on Heart, Lotus, and Platform Sutras also available if necessary

Week 14: Thanksgiving Break

Weeks 15 through 16: Contemporary Material
Material forthcoming

Week 17: No Final Examination
Final Paper is due on day final exam is scheduled (see schedule of classes)