

PHIL 108: Introduction to Asian Philosophy

Instructor: Dr. Richard P. Hayes

Office hours: Mon 1:00–3:00PM

Office: Humanities 525

Telephone: 277–8232

Spring 2007

Classroom: Dane Smith 333

Or by appointment

rhayes@unm.edu

1 Subject matter of the course

For as long as human beings have recorded their thoughts, they have shown an interest in what it means to be a human being of good character, a useful citizen within society and a fulfilled and contented person. In this course we shall examine how several thinkers from India and China have approached this problem. Some have provided anecdotes from which the reader is expected to extract an important lesson, while others have written more systematic essays or set out programs for the cultivation of virtue and guidelines of appropriate conduct. The class will combine background lectures and class discussion of assigned readings.

2 Required Texts

Three texts are available for purchase in the UNM bookstore: Holder (2006), Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001) and Kupperman (2001). Other books that you may find useful for getting further background information are listed in the references at the end of this syllabus. Some readings will be made available on WebCT. Approximately 20–30 pages will be assigned for most classes. Since the readings will be the main material covered in quizzes and on the mid-term exam, and they will be the basis for discussions in class, it is important to keep up with the reading.

3 Schedule

3.1 Pre-Buddhist India

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 22	Is there philosophy in Asia?	
24	R̥g-veda	WebcT
26	The Upanishads	Kupperman (2001, 3-21)
29	Chāndogya and Taittirīya Upaniṣads	WebCT
31	The Indian epics	
Feb 2	Bhagavad Gītā	Kupperman (2001, 42–57)
5	Sāṃkhya and Yoga	WebCT
7	Jainism	
9	<i>Syādvāda</i>	WebCT

3.2 Buddhism in India and East Asia

Feb 12	Dhammapada	Kupperman (2001, 22–41)
14	The noble quest	Holder (2006, 1–18)
16	The Kālāmas and cause	Holder (2006, 19–41)
19	Foundations of mindfulness	Holder (2006, 42–58)
21	Destruction of craving	Holder (2006, 59–79)
23	Short suttas and Māluṅkya	Holder (2006, 80–100)
26	Parable of the water snake	Holder (2006, 101–122)
28	Prince Abhaya	Holder (2006, 123–149)
Mar 2	Threefold knowledge	Holder (2006, 150–173)
5	Wheel-turning monarch	Holder (2006, 174–201)
7	Zen Buddhism	Kupperman (2001, 130–148)
9	Mid-term examination	

3.3 Classical Chinese Philosophy

Mar 19	Kongzi (Confucius)	Kupperman (2001, 50–75)
21	The Analects	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 1–28)
23	The Analects	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 28–54)
26	Mozi	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 59–76)
28	Mozi	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 77–94)
30	Mozi	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 94–111)
Apr 2	Mengzi (Mencius)	Kupperman (2001, 76–92)
4	Mengzi, Books 1–3	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 115–137)
6	Mengzi, Books 4–6	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 137–157)
9	Laozi	Kupperman (2001, 93–112)
11	Daodejing, Book One	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 161–180)
13	Daodejing, Book Two	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 181–2003)
16	Zhuangzi	Kupperman (2001, 113–129)
18	Zhuangzi, chapters 1–2	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 207–224)
20	Zhuangzi, remaining chapters	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 224–250)
23	Xunzi	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 255–269)
25	Xunzi	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 269–286)
27	Xunzi	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 286–307)
30	Han Feizi	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 311–335)
May 2	Han Feizi	Ivanhoe & Van Norden (2001, 335–359)
4	Asian philosophies as guides to life	Kupperman (2001, 149–160)

4 Summary of evaluation

Assignment	Date due	Percentage of final mark
Quizzes	Most weeks	20%
Mid-term exam	Mar 9	30%
1st essay	Apr 9	25%
2nd essay	May 4	25%

5 Suggested essay topics

First essay, due April 9 Kongzi and Mengzi have provided inspiration to East Asians for some 2500 years. Ancient China and the modern West are quite different culturally, and yet all philosophies seem to have features that speak to all people of all times. Write a brief (4–5 page) reflection of what you think the philosophies of Kongzi and Mengzi have to offer people of our times.

Second essay, due May 4 Write a brief (4–5 page) reflection of why you think the philosophies of either the Daoists (Laozi and Zhuangzi) or the law-oriented thinkers (Xunzi and Han Feizi) still appeal to people of our situation in history.

6 Dates of key authors and texts

South Asian	East Asian	Western
<i>Ṛgveda</i> (1300–1000 BC) <i>Upaniṣads</i> (800–500 BC)		<i>Torah</i> (9th cent BC), Hebrew prophets (8th cent BC)
<i>Bhagavad-gīta</i> (500–250 BC) Mahāvīra (6th cent BC) Gotama Buddha (ca 560–ca 480 BC)	Kongzi (551–479 BC) Mozi (5th cent BC) Zhuangzi (4th cent BC), Mengzi (371–289 BC) Xunzi (298–238 BC), Han Feizi (280–233 BC)	Pythagoras (570–497 BC) Socrates (469–399 BC), Plato (427–347 BC) Aristotle (384–322 BC)
		Jesus Christ

References

- Chan, Wing-tsit. 1963. *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Creel, Herrlee Glessner. 1953. *Chinese Thought, from Confucius to Mao Tse-tung*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Feng, Yu-lan. 1948. *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*. New York: The Free Press. Edited by Derk Bodde.
- Feng, Yu-lan. 1953a. *A History of Chinese Philosophy*. Vol. 1. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Translated by Derk Bodde.
- Feng, Yu-lan. 1953b. *A History of Chinese Philosophy*. Vol. 2. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Translated by Derk Bodde.
- Graham, A. C. 1989. *Disputers of the Tao: philosophical argument in ancient China*. La Salle, Ill.: Open Court.
- Halbfass, Wilhelm. 1988. *India and Europe: an essay in understanding*. Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press.
- Harvey, Peter. 1990. *An Introduction to Buddhism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Holder, John J. (ed). 2006. *Early Buddhist Discourses*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company.
- Ivanhoe, Philip J., & Van Norden, Bryan W. (eds). 2001. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company.
- Kupperman, Joel J. 2001. *Classic Asian Philosophy: A Guide to the Essential Texts*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Liu, Xiusheng, & Ivanhoe, Philip J. (eds). 2002. *Essays on the Moral Philosophy of Mengzi*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Pub.