

PHIL 336/536: Chinese Philosophy I**Fall 2007**

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1 Course description

In much the same way that nearly all of European philosophy can be seen as the working out of issues raised by several key Greek thinkers, nearly all of East Asian philosophy can be seen as the working out of issues raised by a few teachers and writers who were active during a period of two or three centuries before the beginning of the Christian era.

In this course we shall examine the thought of several of those key thinkers and will carefully read the key writings of seven of them: Kongfuzi (Confucius), Mozi (Mo Tzŭ), Laozi (Lao Tzŭ), Zhuangzi (Chuang Tzŭ), Mengzi (Mencius), Xunzi (Hsün Tzŭ) and Han Fei Tzŭ (Hanfeizi). These early Chinese thinkers concerned themselves with discussions of human nature, virtue, good government and the natural world. Their styles range from anecdotes to essays to satirical sketches.

Using a combination of lectures and discussion groups, we will focus on several of the issues most hotly debated: are human beings by nature good or evil; what is the role of education; how can human society best be ruled? Although the society of pre-Han China was different from contemporary American society in a number of important ways, human nature has probably not changed much in the past few centuries. Consequently, much of what we read will be material that all people at all times could profitably reflect upon. In our discussions, attention will be paid first to understanding the thinkers in their own cultural setting, then to asking ourselves what insights these thinkers have for our own place and time.

2 Basis for grading for PHIL 336

Grades will be based on two essays, one midterm examination, and class participation (which includes attendance). The distribution of the marks will be as follows.

Assignment	Date Due	Percentage
First essay	September 27	30%
Midterm exam	October 30	30%
Second essay	December 6	40%
Total		100%

3 Basis for grading for PHIL 536

Graduate students taking this course will be expected to keep a journal of reflections on each of the thinkers studied. These will be collected on the last day that we discuss each thinker. The journal will be worth 30% of your final grade. A 20-page essay on

a topic of your choice will be due December 6 and will be worth 50%. Each graduate student will be asked to teach one class during the semester. Typically a class will be a combination of a brief lecture or presentation and leading discussion on the reading for the day. This teaching adventure will be worth 20% of the final grade.

Assignment	Date Due	Percentage
Teaching class	Sign up for date	20%
Journal	On last day of each thinker	30%
Philosophical essay	December 6	50%
Total		100%

4 Texts

All the following texts have been ordered and should be available at the UNM bookstore. It may be less expensive to order them through Amazon.com.

- *Basic Writings of Mo Tzu, Hsün Tzŭ and Han Fei Tzŭ*. (trans. Burton Watson) Columbia University Press. ISBN: 0-231-02515-7
- Chuang Tzŭ. *The Inner Chapters* (trans. A. C. Graham) Hackett Publications, 2001. ISBN: 0-87220-581-9
- Confucius, *Analects*. (trans. Edward Slingerland) Hackett Publications, 2003. ISBN: 0-87220-635-1
- Laozi *Daodejing* (trans. Philip J. Ivahoe) Hackett Publications, 2003. ISBN: 0-87220-701-3
- Mencius. *Mencius* (trans. D. C. Lau) Columbia University Press, 2003. ISBN: 962-201-851-3

5 Schedule of topics and readings

Date	Topics and reading
Aug 21	Preliminaries. Introductions. Discussion: what do you expect ancient Chinese philosophy might have to say to the modern West?
23	Pre-Confucian Chinese thought
28	The Confucian classics. Introduction to the Analects. Read <i>Analects</i> , pp. xi–xxvi.
30	Read <i>Analects</i> Books 1–10.
Sep 4	Read <i>Analects</i> Books 11–20.
6	The century following Kongfuzu; <i>Daxue</i> and <i>Zhongyong</i> .
11	Mozi. Read <i>Basic Writings of Mo Tzŭ</i> , books 1–5.
13	Read <i>Basic Writings of Mo Tzŭ</i> , books 6–11.
18	Zhuangzi. Read <i>Chuang Tzŭ: The Inner Chapters</i> , Part One.
20	Read <i>Chuang Tzŭ</i> , Part Two.
25	Read <i>Chuang Tzŭ</i> , Part Three, chapters 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9.
27	Read <i>Chuang Tzŭ</i> , Part Four and Part Five, chapters 1–2. First undergraduate essay due.
Oct 2	Read <i>Chuang Tzŭ</i> , Part Five, chapters 3–4 and Part Six.
4	Laozi. Read <i>Daodejing</i> , Book One.
9	Read <i>Daodejing</i> , Book Two.
11	Fall break. No classes.
16	Mengzi. Read <i>Mencius</i> , Book I.
18	Read <i>Mencius</i> , Books II and III.
23	Read <i>Mencius</i> , Book IV and V.
25	Read <i>Mencius</i> , Book VI and VII.
30	Midterm examination. (No class for graduate students)
Nov 1	Xunzi. Read <i>Basic writings of Hsün Tzŭ</i> : “Encouraging Learning,” and “Improving Yourself.”
6	Read <i>Hsün Tzŭ</i> : “Regulations of a king,” and “Debating military affairs.”
8	Read <i>Hsün Tzŭ</i> : “Discussion of Heaven,” “Discussion of Rites,” and “Discussion of Music.”
13	Read <i>Hsün Tzŭ</i> : “Dispelling Obsession,” “Rectifying names,” and “Man’s Nature is Evil.”
15	Hanfeizi. Read <i>Basic Writings of Han Fe Tzŭ</i> : “The Way of the Ruler,” “On Having Standards” and “The Two Handles.”
20	Read <i>Han Fe Tzŭ</i> : “Wielding Power,” “The Eight Villanies,” and “The Ten Faults.”
22	No classes. Give thanks.
27	Read <i>Han Fe Tzŭ</i> : “The Difficulties of Persuasion,” “Mr Ho,” and “Precautions Within the Palace.”
29	Read <i>Han Fe Tzŭ</i> : “Facing South,” “The Five Vermin,” and “Eminence in Learning.”
Dec 4	Confucians and Daoists during the Han Dynasty.
6	Reflections on relevance of ancient Chinese thought for our times. Second undergraduate essay due. Graduate essay due.