

PHIL 336/536: Chinese Philosophy I		Fall 2003
Instructor: Dr. Richard Hayes	Classroom: Bandalier East 105	
Office: Humanities 525	Office hours: Wed 1:00-3:00PM	Or by appointment
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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 five of them: Confucius, Mencius, Hsün Tzū, Lao Tzū and Chuang Tzū. 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?

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 26	30%
Midterm exam	October 31	30%
Second essay	December 8	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 five thinkers studied. These will be collected on the last day that we discuss each thinker. The principal assignment for evaluation will be a 20-page essay on a topic of your choice, due the last day of class. The journal will be worth 40% and the essay 60%.

4 Schedule of topics and readings

Week beginning	Topics
August 25	Pre-Confucian thought; life and thought of Confucius
September 3	The Classic on Filial Piety, introduction to the Analects; close reading of the Analects
September 8	Philosophy in the century following Confucius; The Great Learning; The Doctrine of the Mean; Mo Tzŭ
September 15	The life and thought of Mencius; close reading of Mencius
September 22	Close reading of Mencius
September 29	Life and thought of Hsün Tzŭ; close reading of his work
October 6	Close reading of Hsün Tzŭ
October 13	Han Fei Tzŭ and the Legalist school; comparison of Mencius, Hsün Tzŭ and the Legalists
October 20	The Tao Te Ching (Comparing Mitchell's translation with Ames')
October 27	The Tao Te Ching
November 3	The Tao Te Ching
November 10	Life and thought of Chuang Tzŭ; close reading of Chuang Tzŭ
November 17	Close reading of Chuang Tzŭ
November 24	Confucians and Taoists during the Han
December 1	Reflections on relevance of ancient Chinese thought for our times

5 Texts

All the following texts have been ordered and should be available at the UNM bookstore.

Mencius (trans. David Hinton) Counterpoint, 1998.

Hsun Tzu: Basic Writings (trans. Burton Watson) Columbia University Press.

Tao Te Ching (trans. Stephen Miller) Perennial, 2000.

Doadejing: "Making this life significant": A philosophical translation (trans. Roger T. Ames and David L. Hall). Ballantine Books, 2003.

Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings (trans. Burton Watson) Columbia University Press, 1996.