

# Chinese Ethics and Asian Values (PHIL 192)

*Autumn 2010: Classroom 434 Monday 7:30–10:15 p. m.*

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## **Description:**

The body of this course consists in studies of five ethical schools in ancient China: Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Mohism and Legalism. Since the course is a philosopher's approach to those schools, the emphasis is upon the philosophical ideals contained in them, rather than upon any extended exegesis of the texts themselves. Specifically, the following structures govern the interpretation of each school: (1) a general introduction of each school: the text, most important characteristics, and influences; (2) central ethical ideas in each school; (3) the role of each school in the formation of a value system in the tradition; and (4) modern meaning of Chinese ethics: a transformation of a Chinese traditional value system into what is called Asian values during the industrialization of Asian countries. Comparison between Chinese and Western ethics will be encouraged.

## **Course Assignments and Grading:**

1. Presentation of debate and general discussion: The procedure of the presentation is: 1) one student will give a presentation of debate on the assigned topic; 2) the class will be divided into two teams: For Team and Against Team, the two teams will debate each other, and each student is expected to speak out; 3) Professor Wei will give a summary. Each student is given freedom to think and speak his mind. The presentations are required to be shown by PowerPoint slides. Each presentation will last 20 minutes, the debate 20 minutes, and the summary 10 minutes. (40% for the presentation and general discussion, including 15% for giving the presentation, 15% for participating in the team debating, 10% for participating in the general discussion).

2. Each student will write a mid-term paper (more than 3,000 words). He/she may choose any topic related to the contents of the course. The papers are required to be sent to Prof. Wei by email before **Oct. 18**. Lateness

will influence the grades. The professor will give feedback for revision to each paper and a properly revised paper will get higher score. (30% for the mid-term paper).

3. Each student will write a paper (more than 3,000 words) as the final exam. He/she may choose any topic related to the contents of the course. The papers are required to be sent to Prof. Wei by email before **Dec. 13**. **Professor Wei will be at 7:30 at TBC Library to pick up the printed papers.** 5 points will be deducted for lateness. (30% for the final exam).

### **Absence and Lateness Policies**

No absence or lateness is allowed except Professor Wei get approval from the Dean. Each absence will cost 4 points and each lateness will cost 2 points. Three absences will result in failure for the class. A student coming more than an hour after the class starts will be counted as an absence.

Any student who has no absence and lateness from beginning to the end of the course will get 2 points bonus.

In the first class, each student is required to place his or her nameplate on his or her desk. Return the nameplates to TBC office after the class.

### **Intellectual Honesty**

Cheating on exams and plagiarism in papers is not tolerated. A student who is caught cheating will get an “F” for the paper, assignment, or the exam. The student will be dismissed from the class. All cases of cheating will be reported to the TBC office.

### **Contact information**

You are welcome to ask any questions before each class with an appointment. You can also send an email to Prof. Wei at any time: [weizhx@tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:weizhx@tsinghua.edu.cn). She will reply the email as soon as possible.

### **Textbook:**

Each student is required to take the textbook to the class every time:

*Learning from Asian Philosophy*, by Kupperman, J. J., Oxford, 1999.

## Required Readings:

*Learning from Asian Philosophy*, by Kupperman, J. J., Oxford, 1999.

*A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*, tr. & compiled by Wing-tsit Chan, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1963.

## References:

It is not necessary for the students to read all the following books. Each student may read 6 books chosen according to his interest. Please see the following schedule for required reading.

*The Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation*, tr. with intro. by Roger T. Ames and Henry Rosemont, Jr., New York: Bollantine Books, 1998.

*Key Concepts in Chinese Philosophy*, by Zhang Dainian, tr. & ed. by Edmund Ryden, New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2002.

*Dao De Jing*, tr. by Moss Roberts, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

*Confucianism for the Modern World*, Daniel A. Bell, etc., ed., Cambridge University Press, 2003.

*Chinese Mind: Essentials of Chinese Philosophy and Culture*, by Moore, Charles A., 1967.

*In the Eyes of the Dragon: China Views the World*, by Yong Deng and Fei-Ling Wang, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1999.

*Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, P. J. Ivanhoe and B. W. Van Norden ed., Seven Bridges Press, New York, 2001.

*Intellectual Foundations of China*, by Mote, F. W., New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1971.

*Axial Age Civilizations*, by Eisenstandt, S. N., State University of New York Press, 1986.

*Confucian Ethics in the Axial Age* by Roetz, H., State University of New York Press, 1993.

*Individualism and Holism: Studies in the Confucian and Taoist Values*,

Munro, D., ed., University of Michigan, 1985.

*Confucianism and the Modernization of China*, S. Krieger and R. Trauzettel, ed., Hase & Koehler Verlag, Mainz, 1991.

*The Religion of China: Confucianism and Taoism*, by Weber, M., Free Press, New York, 1951.

*The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism*, by Weber, M., New York: Charles Scribners, 1958.

*Confucianism and Modernization: Industrialization and Democratization of the Confucian Regions*, by Wei-Bin Zhang, Macmillan (London), St. Martin's (New York), 1999.

#### References on Websits:

*The Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* by James Fieser,  
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

*Internet History Sourcebooks Project* by Paul Halsall,  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/>

*Internet East Asian History Book*,  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/eastasia/eastasiasbook.html>

#### Schedule

<i>Items</i> <i>Session</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Presentati</i> <i>on</i>	<i>Pre-Reading</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Introduction 1. professor and students: What have you learn from your trip in China? 2. syllabus 3. key concepts 4. Starting Topic: Is Contemporary China in a Confusing Moral	Presentati on assignment	Professor Wei will assign in class	Decide group members and team members.

	Situation?			
2	Ethical Thoughts of Confucius		Professor Wei will assign in the class	
3	Ethical Thoughts of Mencius	Presentati on 1	Professor Wei will assign in the class	
4	Ethical Thoughts of Tung Chung-shu	Presentati on 2	Professor Wei will assign in the class	
5	Ethical Thoughts of Chu Hsi	Presentati on 3	Professor Wei will assign in the class	
6 Mid-term Paper	Ethical Thoughts of Lao Tzu	Presentati on 4	Professor Wei will assign in the class	
7	Ethical Thoughts of Chuang Tzu	Presentati on 5	Professor Wei will assign in the class	
8	Ethical Thoughts of Hsiang Hsiu and Kuo Hsiang	Presentati on 6	Professor Wei will assign in the class	
9	Ethical Thoughts of Hui-neng  Ethical Thoughts of Mo Tzu	Presentati on 7	Professor Wei will assign in the class	

10	Ethical Thoughts of Han Fei	Presentati on 8	Professor Wei will assign in the class	
11	Ethical Thoughts of Asian Countries		Professor Wei will assign in the class	
12	Ethical Thoughts of Chinese Contemporary Leaders			
Final Major Course Paper	The Professor will be at TBC Library at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 13 to pick up the papers			

Remarks: the contents of the schedule will be adapted according to the proper needs of the students and particular situations.