

Chinese Political Philosophy

Spring 2011: Classroom 432 Time: 7:30 pm-10:15, Tuesday

Zhengxiang Wei, Ph.D.
Professor in Ethics
Tsinghua University
E-mail: weizhx@tsinghua.edu.cn

Description:

The course is designed for the students to understand modern and future politics of China through its traditional political philosophy. Chinese traditional political philosophy can be focused on three spheres: Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. The course will teach the political philosophy of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism respectively and then illustrate their relationships based on the comparison between Chinese and West political philosophies. The course will concentrate on how to use different kinds of power to keep a harmonious society to realize the happiness as a whole.

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. (30% 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 **TBD**. 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 **TBD**. **Professor Wei will be at TBD to pick up the printed papers.** 5 points will be deducted for lateness. (40% 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. She will reply the email as soon as possible.

Textbook:

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

A Short History of Chinese Philosophy, by Fung Yu-lan, the Macmillan Company, 1948.

Required Readings:

A Short History of Chinese Philosophy, by Fung Yu-lan, the Macmillan Company, 1948.

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.

China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition by June Teufel Dreyer, Pearson Education, Inc.

Key Concepts in Chinese Philosophy, by Zhang Dainian, tr. & ed. By Edmund Ryden, New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, c2002.

Dao De Jing, tr. by Moss Roberts, Berkeley: University of California Press, c2001.

Studies in Chinese Buddhism, ed. by Robert M. Somers, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.

China in World History, by S. A. M. Adshead, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 1999. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1995.

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

Chinese Political Philosophy by Pott, William S. A., 1925.

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

The Art of Rulership: A Study of Ancient Chinese Political Thought, by Roger T. Ames, State University of New York Press, Albany, 1994.

The Art of Warfare, by Sun Tzu, Translated by Roger Ames, Roger T. Ames, 1993.

China in the National Interest by Owen Harries, (ed.), Transaction Publishers, 2003.

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

Chinese Perspectives on International Relations, by Gerald Chan, St. Martin's Press, Inc., 1999.

Discovering Chinese Nationalism in China: Modernization, Identity, and International Relations, by Yongnian Zheng, Colorcraft Ltd., 1999.

Globalization and State Transformation in China, by Yongnian Zheng, Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Internationalizing China: Domestic Interests and Global Linkages, by David Zweig, Cornell University Press, 2002.

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>

Required Readings:

A Short History of Chinese Philosophy, by Fung Yu-lan, the Macmillan Company, 1948. (listed in the schedule as SH)

A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy, tr. & compiled by Wing-tsit Chan, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1963. (listed in the schedule as SB)

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 2. syllabus	Presentati on assignment	SH: chapter 1-3 SB:Chapter 1	Decide group members and team

	3. key concepts 4. Starting Topic: Should Contemporary China Continue to Keep its Political System?			members.
2	One Hundred Schools		SH: chapter 4, 7 SB: Chapter 2-3	
3	Confucius Mencius	Presentati on (1)	SH: chapter 9-10 SB: Chapter 7-8	
4	Lao Tzu Chuang Tzu	Presentati on (2)	SH: chapter 5, 13-14 SB: Chapter 6, 9, 12	
5	Hsun Tzu Mo Tzu Han Fei	Presentati on (3)	SH: chapter 12, 15, 16 SB: Chapter 11, 13,	
6	Book of Change Confucianism during the period of Qin and Han Six Arts of Confucianism and the sole dominating position of Confucianism Time of		SH: chapter 17 SB: Chapter 14	

	Annotation			
7	Tung Chung-shu School of Ying and Yang		SH: chapter 18, 19, 20 SB: Chapter 19	
8 Mid-term Paper	Neo-Taoism in Northern and Southern Dynasties	Presentati on (4)	SH: chapter 21 SB: Chapter 20	
9	Buddhism in Northern and Southern Dynasties		SH: chapter 22 SB: Chapter 26	
10	Buddhism in Sui and Tang Dynasties	Presentati on (5)	SH: chapter 23-26 SB: Chapter 34-35	
11	Neo-Confucianism: The Two Schools	Presentati on (6)	SH: chapter 27-28 SB: Chapter 44	
12	Marxism in China			
13	Islam and Christianity in China			
Final Major Course Paper	The Professor will be at TBD between TBD 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.