

# Introduction to Chinese Philosophy

## Spring 2013

### Tues. and Thurs. 12:30-2pm

### CAS 213

**Ph247/TT 815 4 Credits**

**Professor:**

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30pm-3:30pm  
And By Appointment

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### I. Course Description

"The Introduction to Chinese Philosophy" examines the development of Chinese philosophy from its ancient beginnings to its modern transformations. The primary focus will be on the development of Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism in China (with additional discussion of Korea and Japan). The course will emphasize the great thinkers of the classical period, the Neo-Daoists of the Wei-Qin, the philosophy of the Chinese schools of Buddhism, and the Neo-Confucians (the Song, Yuan, Ming, Choson Korea, Tokugawa Japan, and Qing masters), and contemporary developments. We will demonstrate that the various traditions have an illustrious history and continue to play an important role in the development of global cultures influenced by East Asian philosophies.

### II. Method of Development

Along with a number of introductory lectures, students will be expected to read extensively both as background for class discussion and for the various research projects if they choose to write a final research paper or preparation for the final examination. The instructor will provide suitable bibliographic guidance for this reading. Students will be expected to explain their research project in terms of content and methodology. Each class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Dr. Berthrong will also be willing to organize additional discussion groups if requested.

### III. General Requirements and Grading

While the students will not necessarily have any prior knowledge of the Chinese tradition, they are expected to have considerable interest in the history of Chinese philosophy and intellectual history. The course **requirements** are **(1)**

attendance and hopefully active participation in the class, **(2)**, a short statement of your interest in and possible background in the study of Chinese philosophy, 3-5 pages due by the second week of the course, **(3)** a five (5) to six page (6) page review of a book on Chinese philosophy, **(4)** a five (5) to six page (6) reflection paper of a specific philosophical theme or philosophy, **(5)** a final examination or **(6)** and a research paper twenty (20) pages **or** a final examination. The topic of the paper must be germane to the course and approved by the instructor.

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| • Background Paper/Statement                 | Required but not graded |
| • Book Review                                | 15%                     |
| • Thematic Reflection Paper                  | 15%                     |
| • Class(Discussion Group) Participation      | 10%                     |
| • Research Paper <b>OR</b> Final Examination | 60%                     |

### **Important Notices about Academic Conduct and General Assistance**

Students with Disabilities—Any students in this course who have a disability that might prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should meet with the instructor as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.

Students seeking to take the course for doctoral credit are required to do all work at the 900 course doctoral level. In addition to all the other assignments, students should submit one review of a second recent book in the field (ca. 1000 words). The final research paper should also be 25-30 pages with a bibliography representing significant engagement with the research topic in the paper and for future reflection. Further, any student who would like to take the course for doctoral credit will need to discuss and meet with the instructor at least three times beyond normal class times in order to discuss their work.

### **Additional Time to Complete Assignments**

If you should need additional time for any of these written assignments, please contact the instructor about your problems and suggest an alternative time for submission of the material. The instructor is well aware of the fact that our lives can become complicated but does want to be forewarned if there is need for a warranted delay in the assigned submission dates. For instance, illness for the student or family is a completely sufficient reason to need extra time to complete the project.

If you should need an incomplete for the course for any reason, please let the instructor know this as soon as possible. There is an incomplete petition form that needs to be composed by the student explaining the need for the incomplete

and which then needs to be signed by both the student and instructor before it is submitted to the STH Registrar.

### Academic Codes of Conduct: Ph 247 & TT 815

For graduate students taking TT 815 the STH Academic Code of Conduct may be found on the STH website at: [www.bu.edu/sth/academic/academic-conduct](http://www.bu.edu/sth/academic/academic-conduct) <<http://www.bu.edu/sth/academic/academic-conduct>>. All students are required to familiarize themselves with this code, its definitions of misconduct, and its sanctions. Students should especially familiarize themselves with the section on plagiarism. Let me repeat: it is very important, and not just for PH247/ TT 815, that each student be familiar with the STH Academic Code of Conduct.

Undergraduates taking Ph 247 should also consult the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student Code of Conduct as well. This outlines proper academic conduct for any Boston University Student.

#### IV. Abbreviated Syllabus Course Topics

At the first meeting of the course the instructor will provide the class with a beginning reading list for the semester.

**\* But for the first meeting please read Van Norden, *Introduction*, pp. xi-15; 17-47.\***

### The Main Structure and topics of the Course:

- The rise of the Confucian tradition within the context of early Chinese thought: The early masters: Confucius [Kongzi], Mencius [Mengzi] and Xunzi et al
- Early Daoist Texts
- Neo-Daoism of the Wei-Qin Period
- The Rise of Chinese Buddhism: The Great Schools: Tiantai, Huayan, Chan (Zen), and Pure Land
- The Late Tang & Northern Song Neo-Confucian traditions
- The Southern Song—Zhu Xi's *daoxue* 道學 school and its critics
- The Flowering of the Ming Confucianism—Wang Yangming, his *xinxue* 心學 school and its critics
- Choson Korea and Tokugawa Japan
- Qing Dynasty criticism of *daoxue* and *xinxue* Neo-Confucianism
- Chinese Philosophy in dialogue with the modern world

#### V. REQUIRED TEXTS

Bryan W. Van Norden, *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy* (Hackett Publishing Company, 2011. ISBN # 978-1-60384-468-0 PAPER)

Damien Keown, *Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2000. ISBN # 978-0-19-285386-8 PAPER)

Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden, eds., *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* Second Edition (Hackett Publishing Company, 2005. ISBN # 0-87220-780-3 PAPER)

Wing-tsit Chan, translated and compiled, *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy* (Princeton University Press, 1963. ISBN # 0-691-01964-9 PAPER)

## VI. BASIC REQUIREMENTS AND EXTENSIONS

The class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays during term.

The research paper will be due during the final examination period. The paper should be typed and in proper academic form. Please be careful about plagiarism as defined by the Boston University Student Handbook. No extensions or incomplete grades will be given except for medical, thanatological, or other serious reasons, justified by a physician's recommendation or for other causes deemed worthy by the instructor.

### APPENDIX I: CLA *Bulletin* Description

"The Introduction of Chinese Philosophy is an introduction to the history of the intellectual and philosophical development of the Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist traditions from its beginnings to the modern period in China, Korea and Japan."

JHB: INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE PHILOSOPHY

[1/9/2013]

PH 247 & TT 815