

Syllabus for a 13-week Course

on

Classical Chinese Philosophy

Textbooks:

- Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden, trans., *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 2nd ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2005).
- Edward G. Slingerland, trans., *Confucius: Analects, with Selections from Traditional Commentaries* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2003).
- Bryan W. Van Norden, *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2011).

Week 1

Topic: Methodology and Historical Context.

Readings

- Appendix A: Hermeneutics, or How to Read a Text, in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- Introduction, in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***, 2nd ed.
- Chapter 1: The Historical Context, in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

Optional Readings:

- *Master Sun's Art of War*, Philip J. Ivanhoe, trans. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2011).

Week 2

Topic: Kongzi (Confucius) and Confucianism

Readings:

- Chapter 2: Kongzi and Confucianism, in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- Kongzi (Confucius), *The Analects*, in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***, 2nd ed.
- ***Confucius: Analects***, Edward Slingerland, trans., especially Books 3-15.

Optional Readings:

- A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, "Religion and Society."

Week 3

Topic: Approaches to Interpreting Kongzi (Confucius)

Readings:

- Chapter 3: Kongzi and Virtue Ethics, in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- Appendix C: Kongzi as Systematic Philosopher, in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

Optional Readings:

- David Jones, ed., *Confucius Now: Contemporary Encounters with the Analects* (Chicago: Open Court, 2008).

Week 4

Topic: Mozi (Mo Tzu) and Mohism

Readings:

- Mozi, in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- Chapter 4: Mohist Consequentialism, in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

Optional Readings:

- "Against Confucianism," from either Burton Watson, trans, *Mo Tzu: Basic Writings* (Columbia University Press), Ian Johnston, trans., *The Mozi* (Columbia University Press), or Yi-pao Mei, trans., *The Ethical and Political Works of Motse*.
- "Against Fatalism," *ibid.* (There is only a partial translation of this in *Readings*.)
- "Condemnation of Offensive Warfare," *ibid.*

Week 5

Topic: Yang Zhu (Yang Chu) and Egoism

Readings:

- Yangism, "Robber Zhi," in **Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy**, 2nd ed., pp. 369-375.
- Chapter 5: Yang Zhu and Egoism, in **Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy**.

Optional Readings:

- "Yang Zhu" from A.C. Graham, trans., *The Book of Lieh-tzu* (Columbia University Press).

Week 7

Topic: Mengzi (Mencius) and the Revival of Confucianism

Readings:

- Mengzi (Mencius), in **Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy**, 2nd ed.
- Chapter 6: Mengzi and Human Nature, in **Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy**.

Optional Readings:

- David S. Nivison, *The Ways of Confucianism* (Chicago: Open Court Press).

Week 6

Topic: The Chinese Language and Philosophy

Readings:

- Appendix B: The Chinese Language and Writing System, in **Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy**.
- "On the White Horse," in **Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy**, 2nd ed.
- Chapter 7: Language and Paradox in the "School of Names," in **Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy**.

Week 8

Topic: Laozi (Lao Tzu) and the *Daodejing* (*Tao Te Ching*)

Readings:

- Laozi (*Daodejing*), in **Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy**, 2nd ed.
- Chapter 8: The *Daodejing* and Mysticism, in **Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy**.

Optional Readings:

- Wang Bi, "Outline Introduction to the *Laozi*," in Richard John Lynn, trans., *The Classic of the Way and Virtue* (Columbia University Press).

Week 9

Topic: Zhuangzi (Chuang Tzu)

Readings:

- Zhuangzi, in **Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy**, 2nd ed.
- Chapter 9: Zhuangzi's Therapeutic Skepticism and Relativism, in **Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy**.

Week 10

Topic: Xunzi (Hsün Tzu)

Readings:

- Xunzi, in **Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy**, 2nd ed.
- Chapter 10: Xunzi's Confucian Naturalism, in **Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy**.

Week 11

Topic: Women and Gender in Chinese Thought

Readings:

- Oracle Bone Inscriptions on Women, from Robin R. Wang, ed., *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing).
- Selections from the *Odes*, *ibid.*
- Baosi and King You of Zhou, *ibid.*
- Gongfu Wenbo's Mother, *ibid.*
- Selections from Ban Zhao, *Lessons for Women*, *ibid.*

Week 12

Topic: Han Feizi (Han Fei Tzu)

Readings:

- Han Feizi, in **Readings** in *Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 2nd ed.
- Chapter 11: Han Feizi, in **Introduction** to *Classical Chinese Philosophy*.

Week 13

Topic: Later Developments

Readings:

- Chapter 12: Later Chinese Thought, in **Introduction** to *Classical Chinese Philosophy*.
- Selections from Mark Csikszentmihalyi, *Readings in Han Chinese Thought* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing).

Optional Readings:

- Daniel K. Gardner, trans., *The Four Books: The Basic Teachings of the Later Confucian Tradition* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing).
- Bryan W. Van Norden, trans., *Mengzi: With Selections from Traditional Commentaries* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing).