

PHIL 349

Philosophies of East Asia 東亞哲學

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Overview

In this course we will look at the formative philosophical thought of East Asia, specifically that of the early Chinese tradition (including Confucianism and Daoism), East Asian Buddhism (particularly Zen in China and Japan), and well as Korean Neo-Confucianism.

Goals

By the end of this course, students should be familiar with the main figures, school, and concepts of numerous systems of East Asian Philosophy. This serves multiple purposes. You will understand the rich philosophical traditions of the region and be well-placed to understand particular and more esoteric or advanced topics in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean philosophy. You will at the same time become familiar with foundational concepts that will give you a deeper understanding of East Asian cultures as a whole, including those of the present day.

Students should be able to engage in interpretive debate surrounding issues in the texts covered, reading the texts in creative ways and advancing positions based on these texts using the tools of philosophical argument as well as those within the East Asian traditions specifically.

Requirements

The work in this course will be comprised of reading (mainly primary sources), a midterm and final exam, term paper, and concept papers.

Evaluation

The grade will be determined as follows:

- Midterm—25%
- Final—25%
- Term paper—30%
- Concept papers—20%

Materials

In Bookstore:

Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, 2nd ed.- Van Norden and Ivanhoe
Understanding Asian Philosophy- McLeod
Zen Flesh, Zen Bones- Reys and Senzaki

Online:

Platform Sutra of Hui Neng

Ten Diagrams on Sage Learning- Yi T'oegye
(<http://faculty.washington.edu/mkalton/>)

Additional readings posted on Canvas

Significant Dates

Friday, October 30
Midterm Exam

Friday, November 13
Term Papers Due

December 16, 4:10-6:10pm
Final Exam

Exams

The midterm and final exams will be held in class (on the dates provided above). They will both be comprehensive, and will be composed of essay questions as well as short-answer questions on specific concepts from the readings and discussions.

Term Paper

There will be a 8-10 page research term paper due before Thanksgiving break (see above). In this paper you are to focus on a specific issue or interpretive question within one of the texts we look at in the course and develop an argument for a particular position on this question. I will provide a list of possible paper topics in the coming weeks (although you are not required to stick to this list), as well as further explanation about the project and resources for research.

Concept Papers

Concept papers will be given in class, always at the beginning of a class period. You will be given 10-15 minutes to write a short essay concerning a specific concept we will have covered in the readings or discussion by that date. I will ask you to explain the concept in question, as well as how it operates in the theory of a specific text, school, or thinker. These will only be announced on the day they are given.

Policies

Due Dates

The term paper and other assignments are due by the listed due date, which is a *final* submission date. You can turn in assignments *up to* the date listed, after which assignments will not be accepted. Thus, you should aim to finish your assignments well before the due date in case of technology failures, etc. These will not be acceptable excuses after the due date.

Attendance

Attending class is key for understanding of the material. I will cover philosophical, interpretive, and language issues not discussed in the primary texts we are reading in class. In addition, the concept papers will be in class and not available for makeup without documented reason

Plagiarism

Please be familiar university's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism (included under section 1.6 in the General Catalog). Plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment in question and possibly of the course as a whole.

Accommodations

Any student eligible for academic adjustments because of a learning disability or medical condition should contact the Office of Resources for Disabled Students at (970) 491-6385 for development of appropriate accommodations.

Rough Schedule of Topics (with readings)

1. Philosophy, history, literature, religion. Philosophy in East Asian context.
2. Confucian *Analects* (*Analects* in I/VN, Ch. 1 in McLeod)
3. Mohist universalism (*Mozi* in I/VN)
4. The "human nature" debate in Confucianism (*Mengzi* and *Xunzi* in I/VN)
5. Daoism 1: Daodejing and Zhuangzi (*Daodejing* in I/VN)
6. Zhuangzi (*Zhuangzi* in I/VN, Ch. 2 in McLeod)

7. Legalism and the beginning of empire (*Hanfeizi* in I/VN)
8. Huainanzi and Han Philosophy (selections from *Huainanzi*- on Canvas)
9. Origins of Buddhism (McLeod, Ch. 3, selections from Suttas- on Canvas)
10. Chan- Hui Neng's Platform Sutra (*Platform Sutra*)
11. Zen- China and Japan (Reps and Senzaki, *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*)
12. Neo-Confucianism (Zhu Xi and Wang Yangming)
13. Neo-Confucianism in Korea (Toegye's *Ten Diagrams*)
14. Contemporary philosophy in East Asia