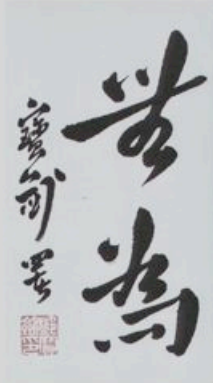


Asia 371

## Foundations of Chinese Thought



### Instructor

Prof. Edward Slingerland

Office: Asian Centre 609

[edward.slingerland@ubc.ca](mailto:edward.slingerland@ubc.ca)

OH: T TH 12:30-13:40 and by appointment

### Winter Session, Term 1 2013

T TH 14:00-15:20

Hennings 202

TA: Robin Curtis ([rcurtis@middlebury.edu](mailto:rcurtis@middlebury.edu))

Tutorial sessions: W 9:00-10:30, 1:30-3:00, Room 100, Auditorium Annex Offices B

This course is designed to give students a thorough introduction to early Chinese thought, from the earliest archeological and oracle bone records until the unification of China in 221 B.C.E. Topics covered will include Shang and Zhou Dynasty religion, Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism, and the early logicians. Themes that will be traced over the course of the semester include the nature of early Chinese conceptions of the self, various models of self-cultivation and rationality, and differences in spiritual and political ideals. Students will be exposed to both received texts and recently discovered (and previously unknown) archeological texts; this combination of sources will both enrich students' understanding of the world of thought in early China and call into question the boundaries drawn between the traditionally-defined "schools" such as Daoism or Confucianism. Parallels with developments in western philosophical and religious traditions will be addressed, as will the relevance of early Chinese thought for contemporary debates in ethics, moral education, and political philosophy. (Cross-listed as Philosophy 371)

## **Required Texts**

Slingerland, Edward (trans.). *The Analects of Confucius*. Hackett Publishing Company  
Ivanhoe, P.J. (trans.). *The Daodejing of Laozi*. Hackett Publishing Company  
Van Norden (trans.). *The Essential Mengzi*. Hackett Publishing Company.  
Watson, Burton (trans.). *Mozi: Basic Writings*. Columbia University Press  
Watson, Burton (trans.). *Zhuangzi: Basic Writings*. Columbia University Press  
Watson, Burton (trans.). *Xunzi: Basic Writings*. Columbia University Press  
(Additional readings available on Connect)

## **Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend all lectures and to keep up with the course readings; the lectures are designed to provide a background to (rather than a synopsis of) the assigned texts, and neither will be sufficient in isolation to provide an adequate grasp of the course material. There will be seven 10-minute pop quizzes over the course of the semester, which will be multiple-choice and administered by means of the i>clicker system. Although the quizzes cannot be made up, the lowest score will be dropped. The midterm will consist of an in-class essay, and the final will consist of a mixture of multiple-choice, short answer and essay questions. Grading will be as follows:

Attendance:	5%
Midterm:	24%
Quizzes:	36% (6% each)
Final exam:	35%

Students are expected to attend all lecture sessions and to engage in informal clicker feedback during class; attendance will be monitored using the i>clicker system. Students' attendance grade will begin at 100%, and decrease by 8% with each absence. As with quizzes, no excuses will be accepted for absences from class; students are, in essence, being granted 2 free absences before their grade for this portion of the class will drop below the "A" range. Please note that any student found to be using a clicker registered to another student will be brought up on academic misconduct charges, with the typical sanction being an "F" (0) for the course.

## **Class Policies**

Students who need to request accommodations based on a disability are required to register with the Disability Resource Centre in Brock Hall within the first week of class. The final exam time and location will be announced in class as soon as it is available, and students will then have one week from the time of announcement to report any potential scheduling conflicts to the instructor; after this period, no alternate exam accommodations will be made. In any case, exam accommodations will only be made for conflicts with exams in other classes; vacation travel plans, etc., cannot under any circumstance be accommodated, so please do not make vacation travel plans until the exam date is announced. Academic concessions concerning make-up exams, class absences, etc. are granted only rarely and at the sole discretion of the instructor, and any concessions that are granted must also be officially cleared by Academic Advising.

The instructor strictly adheres to the guidelines for Discipline for Academic Misconduct published in the UBC-Vancouver *Calendar* ([www.students.ubc.ca/calendar](http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar)) for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty (assigned penalty is "F" or 0 for the course). It is the responsibility of the student to familiarize him- or herself with these guidelines.

Please disable all cell phones, beepers, personal communications devices, and any other sound-producing appliances before entering the classroom.

Notes of class lectures may only be made for the purposes of individual or group study, or for other non-commercial purposes that reasonably arise from your membership in this class. Permission to make recordings must be requested from the instructor. Notes and recordings of this class may not be exchanged or distributed for any commercial purpose, for compensation, or for any purpose other than your personal study. Unless authorized by the University in advance and explicitly and in writing permitted by the instructor, commercial or any non-personal use of class notes or recordings constitutes an unauthorized activity, and students who violate this policy are subject to University discipline.

## **Schedule of Topics and Readings**

09/03 **Undergraduate orientation, no class**

09/05 Introduction to course, general discussion of "thought," "religion," "philosophy." No reading assignment.

- 09/10 Beginnings of Chinese civilization, Shang 商 Dynasty thought. *Connect*: selections from the *Book of Songs* (*Shijing* 詩經), Part I.
- 09/12 Zhou 周 Dynasty thought. *Connect*: Selections from the *Book of Songs* (*Shijing* 詩經), Part II and the *Book of Documents* (*Shujing* 書經 or *Shangshu* 尚書).
- 09/17 The decline of the Zhou; Confucius (Kongzi 孔子). *Analects*, Books 1-3, 10.
- 09/19 Confucius. *Analects*, Books 4-7.
- 09/24 Confucius. *Analects*, Books 8-9, 12-13.
- 09/24 **Special evening event (extra credit): Lecture by Anne Cheng, Collège de France.**
- 09/26 Laozi (Lao-tzu) 老子 & Primitivism. *Analects* 14.38-14.39, 18.5-18.7; *Laozi* or *Daodejing* (*Tao Te Ching*) pp. 1-37.
- 10/01 Laozi and Primitivism. *Daodejing* pp. 41-84; *Connect*: *Zhuangzi* Chs. 8-10.
- 10/03 Mozi (Mo-tzu) 墨子. *Mozi*, pp. 19-51, 69-80, 113-140.
- 10/08 Neo-Mohists, Hu Shi, & the Logicians. *Connect*: Graham, “Names and Objects”; *Zhuangzi*, excerpt from Ch. 33.
- 10/10 New technologies of the self: the physiological turn, discovery of the self, and Yang Zhu-ism. *Connect*: “Inner Training”; *Zhuangzi*, excerpt from Ch. 11.
- 10/15 The Lost School of Confucianism: The Guodian Confucian texts. *Connect*: selections from “Human Nature Emerges From the Mandate” (*Xing Zi Ming Chu*)
- 10/17 **In-class midterm.**
- 10/22 Mencius (Mengzi 孟子). *Mengzi*, pp. 1-28. [Consulting commentary in back as appropriate]
- 10/24 Mencius. *Mengzi*, pp. 28-54. [Consulting commentary in back as appropriate]
- 10/29 Mencius. *Mengzi*, pp. 54-91. [Consulting commentary in back as appropriate]
- 10/31 Zhuangzi (Chuang-tzu) 莊子. *Zhuangzi*, pp. 23-44.
- 11/05 Zhuangzi. *Zhuangzi*, pp. 45-88.
- 11/07 Zhuangzi. *Zhuangzi*, pp. 89-141.
- 11/12 Xunzi (Hsün-tzu) 荀子. *Xunzi*, pp. 15-57.
- 11/14 Xunzi. *Xunzi*, pp. 59-114.
- 11/19 Xunzi. *Xunzi*, pp. 115-174.
- 11/21 **Class cancelled.**
- 11/26 Legalism and the Unification of China. *Connect*: Han Feizi selections
- 11/28 Conclusion: Religious/ philosophical conceptions of the self. *Connect*: Charles Taylor, “Inescapable Frameworks.”