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EALC 5521: Introduction to Classical Chinese Thought

This Master's-level course is intended as an introduction to the foundational thinkers of Chinese civilization, who flourished from the fifth to the third centuries B.C. No knowledge of Chinese is presumed, and there are no prerequisites.

The course will be conducted online, with **synchronous meetings every Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 P.M.** This amounts to roughly half as much class time as in a regular course, but our meetings will be supplemented by asynchronous online interaction in the form of an **open discussion forum on the Canvas website**, where students will be encouraged to post questions and respond to or elaborate on other students' questions. The instructor will follow all discussions and also comment as appropriate. There is no specific minimum degree of participation, but students' contributions throughout the term will be factored into their final grades. Naturally, it will be possible to check the forum and add comments at any hour of the day.

In addition, students are required to write a **term paper** comprising approximately 5,000 words on any aspect of classical Chinese philosophy. **A one-page paper proposal, followed by a preliminary bibliography**, will be due on September 27. In this proposal, state what you would like to investigate, the reasons for your interest, and the sources that you expect to use. If you happen to choose a topic that is not viable in the context of a single semester, you will still have time to explore other possibilities. The purpose of the bibliography is to demonstrate that you have done some degree of formal research and are aware of basic sources pertaining to your topic; at this stage, it is permissible to list items that you have not yet read. (But be sure that you have read everything in your final bibliography when you submit the term paper itself.) In response to the proposal, the instructor may suggest further avenues for research, as well as other sources that would be worth consulting.

The term paper is due on December 9. Any reference style is permissible as long as it is clear and consistent.

There are seven required books:

Goldin, Paul R. *The Art of Chinese Philosophy: Eight Classical Texts and How to Read Them*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2020. ISBN 978-0691200798.

Griffith, Samuel B., tr. *Sun Tzu: The Art of War*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963. ISBN 978-0-19-501476-1.

Henricks, Robert G., tr. *Lao-tzu: Te-tao ching*. Classics of Ancient China. New York: Ballantine, 1989. ISBN 978-0-345-37099-0.

Lau, D.C., tr. *Confucius: The Analects*. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 1992. ISBN 978-962-201-980-5. [Distributed by Columbia University Press.]

Van Norden, Bryan W., tr. *The Essential Mengzi: Selected Passages with Traditional Commentary*. Indianapolis and Cambridge, Mass.: Hackett, 2009. ISBN 978-0-87220-985-5.

Watson, Burton, tr. *Basic Writings of Mo Tzu, Hsün Tzu, and Han Fei Tzu*. Translations from the Asian Classics. Records of Civilization: Sources and Studies, 74. New York: Columbia University Press, 1963. ISBN 978-0-231-02515-7.

Watson, Burton, tr. *Zhuangzi: Basic Writings*. Translations from the Asian Classics. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003. ISBN 978-0-231-12959-6.

All will be placed on reserve at Van Pelt and should be readily available for purchase online (used or new). There are also e-book versions, but occasionally these are unpaginated. If you encounter this problem, just let me know—it's not a disaster.

The requirements for this course are:

- (a) participation in all synchronous class meetings (Tuesdays, 7-8:30 P.M.);
- (b) completion of all reading assignments;
- (c) regular contributions to the class blog;
- (d) one-page term-paper proposal followed by a preliminary bibliography, due on September 27;
- (e) term paper (ca. 5,000 words), due on December 9.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Participation in class:	15%
Contributions to discussion forum:	30%
Term-paper proposal:	15%
Term paper:	40%

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. I check it several times a day and usually respond within 24 hours.

WARNING: If you submit plagiarized work, you will fail the assignment, fail the course, and have your case forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct. No exceptions. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, consult the instructor before submitting any work. See the university's Code of Academic Integrity at:

<https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>

Schedule of Meetings

August 30. Introduction—No readings for this class.

I. *Analects*.

Sept. 6. Lau, 3-147.

Sept. 13. Lau, 149-205; Goldin, 31-53.

II. *Mo-tzu*.

Sept. 13. Watson, *Mo-tzu*, 18-61.

Sept. 20. Watson, *Mo-tzu*, 62-136; Goldin, 54-78.

III. *Mencius*.

Sept. 27. Van Norden, 1-79. PAPER PROPOSAL DUE.

Oct. 4. Van Norden, 79-91; Goldin, 79-105.

IV. *Lao-tzu*.

Oct. 11. Henricks, 7-89; Goldin, 109-28.

V. *Zhuangzi*.

Oct. 18. Watson, *Zhuangzi*, 23-71.

Oct. 25. Watson, *Zhuangzi*, 73-141; Goldin, 129-52.

VI. *Sun-tzu*.

Nov. 1. Griffith, 63-149; Goldin, 153-65.

VII. *Hsün-tzu*.

Nov. 8. Watson, *Hsün-tzu*, 15-55.

Nov. 15. Watson, *Hsün-tzu*, 56-138.

Nov. 22. THANKSGIVING WEEK—NO CLASS

Nov. 29. Watson, *Hsün-tzu*, 139-71; Goldin, 169-200.

VIII. *Han Fei-tzu*.

Nov. 29. Watson, *Han Fei-tzu*, 16-72.

Dec. 6. Watson, *Han Fei-tzu*, 73-129; Goldin, 201-28.