



Introduction to Chinese Philosophy (2018) Syllabus

Professor: Zhang Rongnan

Email: rnzhang@philo.ecnu.edu.cn

Home Univ.: East China Normal University

Dept.: Philosophy Department

Description: The course is a historical survey of the main philosophical traditions in China, including Confucianism, Mohism, Legalism, Daoism and Buddhism. Through lectures, discussions, and reading of select primary and secondary sources, we will explore the main features of ancient Chinese philosophical traditions and how they influence about Chinese history. We will also discuss how China's philosophical traditions affect the lives of today's Chinese, and the tension between these traditions and modernity.

Objective: We hope that students will have a basic understanding of Chinese philosophical traditions through this course and become interested in Chinese civilization. This course will help students understand the Chinese people's way of thinking and their values.

Required text: Wing-tsit Chan, *A Source Book in Chinese philosophy*. Princeton: Princeton U. Press, 1969. And some other classic texts including *Analects* and *Mencius*, etc. (We will provide the reading materials.)

Schedule:

Week 1	The Spirit of Chinese Philosophy
	Confucius and His Time
	The Difference between Mencius and Xunzi on Human Nature
	The Great Learning & The Doctrine of Mean
Week 2	Mozi and Mohism
	Han feizi and Legalism
	The Debate between Confucianism, Mohism and Legalism
Week 3	Introduction to Daoism
	Laozi and <i>Dao De Jing</i>
	The Development of Daoism by Zhuangzi
Week 4	Introduction to Buddhism
	Chinese Buddhism: Tiantai, Huayan and Chan
	The Confluence of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism and the Modern Crisis of Chinese Traditional Philosophies

Evaluation:

10% Attendance

20% Group Assignments

35% Midterm

35% Final