Chinese Ethics and Asian Values (PHIL 192)

Course: PHIL 192
Term: Spring 2016
Instructor: Dr. Zhengxiang Wei
Email: weizhx@tsinghua.edu.cn

Description:

The body of this course consists in studies of five ethical schools in ancient China: Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Mohism and Legalism. Since the course is a philosopher’s approach to those schools, the emphasis is upon the philosophical ideals contained in them, rather than upon any extended exegesis of the texts themselves. Specifically, the following structures govern the interpretation of each school: (1) a general introduction of each school: the text, most important characteristics, and influences; (2) central ethical ideas in each school; (3) the role of each school in the formation of a value system in the tradition; and (4) modern meaning of Chinese ethics: a transformation of a Chinese traditional value system into what is called Asian values during the industrialization of Asian countries. Comparison between Chinese and Western ethics will be encouraged.

The process of each class is: 1) checking attendance; 2) learning Chinese characters; 3) reviewing the contents of last session; 4) lecturing; and 5) question time.

Course Assignments and Grading:

1. Question time: the professor will ask questions about what she has just taught. The questions are significant and very interesting. Each student is encouraged to speak his or her mind. It will be done in the third session of each class. Each student is required to answer each question. (20%)

2. The study of Chinese characters is required in each class. We will study about 40 Chinese characters. (10%, 0.25/each character)

3. Each student will write a mid-term paper (more than 3,000 words). He/she may choose any topic related to the contents of the course. The papers will be
presented by PPT in the week of mid-term test. The professor and classmates will give suggestions to perfect the paper. A properly revised paper can be handled in together with the final paper and will get higher scores. (30% for the mid-term paper).

4. Each student will write a paper (more than 3,000 words) as the final exam. He/she may choose any topic related to the contents of the course. The papers are required to be sent to Prof. Wei by email before TBD. **Professor Wei will be at TBD to pick up the printed papers.** 5 points will be deducted for lateness. (40% for the final exam).

**Absence and Lateness Policies**

Only valid medical or family emergencies qualify as an absence, and documentation of the same must be presented to the professor no later than the next class meeting. Each absence will cost 4 points and each lateness will cost 2 points. Three absences will result in failure for the class. A student coming more than an hour after the class starts will be counted as an absence.

Any student who has no absence and lateness from beginning to the end of the course will get 2 points bonus.

In the first class, each student is required to place his or her nameplate on his or her desk. Return the nameplates to TBC office after the class.

**Intellectual Honesty**

Cheating on exams and plagiarism in papers is not tolerated. A student who is caught cheating will get an “F” for the paper, assignment, or the exam. The student will be dismissed from the class. All cases of cheating will be reported to the TBC office. This course adheres to Loyola University Chicago/Beijing Center policies on Academic Honesty.

The student is advised to review the policies on this website:


**Contact information**

You are welcome to ask any questions before each class with an appointment. You can also send an email to Prof. Wei at any time: weizhx@tsinghua.edu.cn. She will reply the email as soon as possible.
Textbook:

Each student is required to take the textbook to the class every time:

*A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*, by Fung Yu-lan, the Macmillan Company, 1948.

Required Readings:

*A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*, by Fung Yu-lan, the Macmillan Company, 1948.


References:

It is not necessary for the students to read all the following books. Each student may read 6 books chosen according to his interest. Please see the following schedule for required reading.


1971.


**References on Websites:**

*The Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* by James Fieser, http://www.iep.utm.edu/

*Internet History Sourcebooks Project* by Paul Halsall, http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/

*Internet East Asian History Book*, http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/eastasia/eastasiasbook.html

**Schedule**

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<th>Session</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Pre-Reading</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>professor and students: What have you learn from your trip</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>Professor Wei will assign in class</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ethical Thoughts of Tung Chung-shu</td>
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<td>Ethical Thoughts of Chu Hsi</td>
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<td>6 Mid-term Paper</td>
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<td>Ethical Thoughts of Chuang Tzu</td>
<td>Professor Wei will assign in the class</td>
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<td>Ethical Thoughts of Hsiang Hsiu and Kuo Hsiang</td>
<td>Professor Wei will assign in the class</td>
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<td>Ethical Thoughts of Mo Tzu</td>
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<td>Ethical Thoughts of Han Fei</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Ethical Thoughts of Asian Countries</td>
<td>Professor Wei will assign in the class</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Ethical Thoughts of Chinese Contemporary Leaders</td>
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<td>Final Major Course Paper</td>
<td>The Professor will be at TBC Library at 7:30 p.m., TBD to pick up the papers</td>
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Remarks: the contents of the schedule will be adapted according to the proper needs of the students and particular situations.