



East China Normal University International Summer Session

REL 11/ PHI 15 Introduction to Chinese Philosophy and Religion

Term: July 5th -August 8th, 2018

Time: 15:35-17:25

Instructor: Thomas Michael

Home Institution: Beijing Normal University

Office hours: TBD

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Teaching Assistant: TBD

Course Overview

How many times have you read the Daodejing, and how many lines from it can you recite? Do you know what Confucius actually said about the Dao? Is there a philosophical foundation to growing old and living for centuries? How Chinese was Buddha?

This course will allow you to answer each of these questions positively and thoughtfully, while guiding you through many of the philosophical and religious classics on traditional China. Taught by one of the great Western specialists of Daoism and Chinese philosophy, we will study the close relations between Chinese philosophy and Chinese religion from its roots in the Shang Dynasty, and take the fascinating journey to meet Laozi, Confucius, Zhuangzi, as well as Sunzi, the master general. We will study Daoist notions of immortality and Chinese Buddhist notions of enlightenment. And because philosophy and religion are very much alive in China today, we will also take a look at where they stand in contemporary China.

Course Goals:

A student who satisfactorily completes this course should:

1. Summarize ancient Chinese philosophical and religious thought.
2. Summarize some differences and similarities between Daoism and Confucianism.
3. Summarize Chinese concepts of longevity and immortality.
4. Summarize main ideas of Chinese Buddhism and Chan Buddhism.
5. Demonstrate ability to explain class readings and lectures at 75%

Required Text

All reading materials will be taught in English translation and will be made available by instructor or TA.



But you can also find and read (or at least look at!) many of them in Chinese from the internet.

Course Hours

The course has 25 class sessions in total. Each class session is 110 minutes in length, for a total of 2750 minutes of in-class time. The course meets from Monday to Friday from July 5 to August 8. ECNU awards 4 credits for this course. Different universities may count course credits differently. Consult officials at your own home institution.

Attendance

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class. Occasionally, due to illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. ECNU policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any absence may impact on the student's grade. Moreover, **ECNU policy is that a student who has more than 3 absences will fail the course. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.**

Grading Policy

ECNU awards grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, and F. Most colleges and universities do not award transfer credit for grades of D or F.

In this course, grading will be based on the following:

- 40% Midterm exam
- 50% Final exam
- 10% Classroom engagement (attendance, attention, participation in discussions)

General expectations:

Students are expected to:

- *Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned. Any unexcused absence may impact a student's grade. Moreover, ECNU policy is that a student who has more than 3 absences will fail the course. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.*
- *Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class*
- *Review the previous day's notes before class; make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading*
- *Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time.*
- *Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class. Students who do not do this will be asked to leave the class*
- *While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from*



private conversations during the class period.

Course Schedule

The planned schedule sketched out below may be modified to suit the interests or abilities of the enrolled students or to take advantage of special opportunities or events that may arise during the term.

WEEK ONE:

Thurs: Introductions:

Fri: Shang Dynasty religion and philosophy

Mon: Ancient yin-yang thought

Tues: Ancient Chinese shamanism

Wed: Daoism

Oracle bones (甲骨文)

“Youguan” (幼官) from the *Guanzi*

“Chuyu, xia” (楚语下) from the *Guoyu*

The *Daodejing* (道德经)

WEEK TWO:

Thurs: Daoism

Fri: Daoism

Mon: Confucianism

Tues: Confucianism

Wed: Daoism

The *Daodejing*

The *Daodejing*

The *Analects* (论语)

The *Analects*

The *Zhuangzi* (庄子)

WEEK THREE:

Thurs: Mid-term Review

Fri: Mid-term Assigned

Mon: Militarism

Tues: Longevity and Immortality

Wed: Longevity and Immortality

Due Monday, July 23

The *Art of War* (孙子兵法)

Shenxianzhuan (神仙传)

Shenxianzhuan

WEEK FOUR:

Thurs: Longevity and Immortality

Fri: Buddhism

Mon: Buddhism

Tues: Buddhism

Wed: Chan Buddhism

Shenxianzhuan

The *Scripture in 42 Sections* (四十二经)

The *Scripture in 42 Sections*

Linji lu (臨濟錄)



WEEK FIVE:

Thurs: Chan Buddhism

Linji lu

Fri: Religion and Philosophy in Modern China

“Document 19”

Mon: Religion and Philosophy in Modern China

“Document 19”

Tues: Final Review

Wed: Final Assigned

Due Friday, August 10

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. Specifically, unless otherwise directed by the professor, students may not consult other students, books, notes, electronic devices or any other source, on examinations. Failure to abide by this may result in a zero on the examination, or even failure in the course.

Students are also expected to adhere to appropriate scholarly conventions in essays and research papers. This class includes paper assignment(s) in which students must give credit to all outside sources used by means of citations and a bibliography. Failure to do so may result in a zero on the paper assignment, or even failure in the course.

Also note that everything you will need to do great on the mid-term and final comes exclusively from our class readings and lectures, therefore avoid the Internet at all costs—I can easily see, and the consequences will be harsh.