

Spring 2009
Shek

Chinese Philosophy & Religion

2022 Mendocino Off. Hours: M 5:00-6:00 p.m. Phone: 278-5331 Email: rshek@csus.edu

Area: C4

Department: Humanities and Religious Studies **Course Number:** 173

Course Title: Chinese Philosophy & Religion

Course Description:

A study of Chinese philosophic and religious ideas through representative works in English. The traditional Chinese views on human nature, society, politics, morality, and spirituality are examined. The Chinese transformation of Buddhism will also be discussed. The inner dynamics of traditional Chinese thought and its contemporary implications are explored. 3 units.

Prerequisites: None

Learning Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of philosophic inquiries and religious experiences
- To enhance an understanding of and appreciation for Chinese cultural heritage in the humanities
- To identify the motifs of aesthetic expression of Chinese thought

Assignments: 3 quizzes
2 mid-terms
1 paper (5 typed pages)

Texts: Wing-tsit Chan, A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy
Donald Lopez, ed., Religions of China in Practice
Daniel Bell, China's New Confucianism

Grading System:

Quizzes	15%
Mid-terms	50%
Paper	30%
Other considerations	5%

Examinations: Quizzes will test on mastery of basic vocabulary and facts
Mid-terms will test on facts and critical analysis of ideas
Final will be all essays
Paper will serve as summary of what students have learned (5 pp. typed)

Other Evaluation: Attendance and class participation

Course Outline:

- 1/26 General Introduction & Early Cultural Orientations (C: 3-13; L:3-51)
- 2/2 Confucianism, Confucius, & the Confucian classics
- 2/9 The vision of the Analects (C: 14-48)
- 2/16 Defenders of the Faith: Mencius & Hsun-tzu (Xunzi) (C: 49-83, 115-135)
- 2/23 Syncretism and the Confucian triumph (C: 271-288; L: 251-260)
- 3/2 Confucianism Eclipsed & Revived (C: 450-480, 495-571)
- 3/9 Confucian China (C: 572-691; Bell)
- 3/16 **First Mid-term;** Chinese Views of the Natural and the Supernatural
- 3/23 Lao-tzu (Laozi) and Chuang-tzu (Zhuangzi) (L: 52-63; 156-165; C: 136-176, 177-210)
- 3/30 **Spring Break**
- 4/6 Neo-Daoists and Early Religious Daoism (C: 314-335; L:149-155)
- 4/13 The Shangqing, Lingbao, and Quanzhen Schools (L: 166-202)
- 4/20 **Second Mid-term;** The Buddha and Arrival of his teaching in China (C: 396-424; L: 360-380)
- 4/27 Buddhism became Chinese (C: 370-449; L: 381-404)
- 5/4 Golden Age of Buddhism: Pure Land & Chan (L: 82-105; 203-222)
- 5/11 Moral Orthodoxy and Religious Pluralism (L: 293-305; 423-445) **Paper due**

Comments:

There shall be no ringing cell phones or pagers when class is in session. (They will be kept by the instructor until end of class). There shall be no food or drink in the classroom. Keep late arrivals to a minimum, and no leaving of the classroom during exams or when class is in session. No reading or doing assignments from other classes.