Fall 2010     HRS 176     Confucian Tradition

Shek       Office: Mendocino 2022   Hours: MW 12:30-1:30 p.m.  278-6444 or 5331   Email: rshek@csus.edu

Department: HRS       Course Number: 176
Course Title: The Confucian Tradition

Course Description:
Study of the Confucian tradition as it unfolded in China. Both its philosophical and religious dimensions will be studied, as will the evolution and transformation of this uniquely Chinese tradition over time. The Confucian influence on Chinese culture, philosophy, religion, literature, political structure and social organization will be identified and analyzed. Furthermore, the impact of Confucian ideas on China’s East Asian neighbors will be explored.

Learning Objectives:

- To develop a comprehensive understanding of and appreciation for the entire Confucian tradition over its 2,500 year history
- To identify the cultural, social, political, religious, philosophical, and literary impact the Confucian tradition has made
- To explore the Confucian influence on Korea and Japan

Assignments: 3 papers (min. 5 typed pages each)  
2 presentations

Texts: Xinzhong Yao, An Introduction to Confucianism  
Edward Slingerland, tr., Confucius: The Analects  
Daniel Gardner tr., The Four Books  
Rodney Taylor, The Religious Dimensions of Confucianism

Grading System: Papers 25% each  
Attendance and Presentation 25%

Writing Component: There is substantial writing in all the paper requirements

Comments: There shall be no ringing cellphones or pagers in the classroom. (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. There shall be no make-up exams or late papers without compelling reasons (medical or family emergency). All unexcused missed exams and papers will automatically be assigned an F grade, as will all plagiarized work.
Course Outline & Schedule:

8/30  General Introduction
9/1   Traditional Chinese worldview
9/6   Labor Day, No class
9/8   The ru tradition in ancient China (Y:17-21)
9/13  Confucius, the man and his time (Y:21-26; S:xiii-xxv)
9/15  The Vision of the Analects
9/20  Analects, Bks 1-7 (S:1-77)
9/22  Analects, Bks 8-14 (S:78-173)
9/27  Analects, Bks 15-20 (S:174-235)
9/29  Mencius, the man and his time (Y:71-76) 1st paper due
10/4  Mencius, Bks 1-4 (G:53-81)
10/6  Mencius, Bks 5-7 (G:81-103)
10/11-20 Instructor absent
10/25 Later Confucians and the formation of the Canon (Y:47-67; 76-89; G:3-8; 107-129)
10/27 Confucianism in eclipse
11/1  The Rise of Neo-Confucianism (Y:96-104)
11/3  Zhu Xi (Y:105-108)
11/8  Lu Xiangshan and Wang Yangming (Y:109-115)
11/10 Confucianism in the Modern Age (Y:245-286)
11/15 The Way of Heaven (Y:141-153) 2nd paper due
11/17 The Way of Humans (Y:153-169)
11/22 The Way of Harmony (Y:169-189)
11/24 Ritual and Learning (Y:190-223)
11/29 Taylor, Chps 1-2 (T:7-38)
12/1  Taylor, Chps 3-4 (T:39-64)
12/6  Taylor, Chps 5-7 (T:65-114)
12/8  Confucian influence on East Asia (Y:115-137) 3rd paper due