Chinese Philosophy
Philosophy 145A • Spring 2015

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Required Texts
An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy, Jeeloo Liu
Dao De Jing, A Philosophical Translation, Hall & Ames
Other readings will be available online

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Catalog Description: Survey of the major philosophical traditions of China and Japan, focusing on concepts of nature, man, society, freedom and knowledge. Special attention will be given to Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and recent philosophical movements.

This course satisfies Area C4: Further Studies in the Arts and Humanities, and satisfies the intensive writing requirement.

Prerequisites: Passing score on the Writing Proficiency Exam.

The intensive writing requirement specifies that students will complete writing assignments totaling not less than 5000 words, which is in the range of 17-20 pages depending on formatting. In this course, this goal will be met with a combination of critical summaries (12 ½ pages total) and an in-class essay final (6 pages minimum). The instructor will be working actively with students to assist them in sharpening their analytic skills and improving their writing styles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
- Familiarize students with the major schools of traditional Chinese philosophy, enabling them to identify the major tenets of Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism, as well as the views of some of the major contributors to each of these traditions, and to be able to describe areas in which these traditions agree and disagree
- Improve students’ abilities to critically assess complex philosophical argumentation
- Improve students’ abilities to develop a reasoned framework for their own worldview
- Enhance students’ composition skills
- Expose students to highly sophisticated non-western schools of philosophical thought

COURSE GRADE
The following cutoff scheme represents a guarantee of the maximum course total required for each letter grade. Target scores for the individual assignments are also provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Summaries (x5)</th>
<th>Final</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>180</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The instructor will be following the Philosophy Department’s grade definitions.

**Description of Requirements**

**Critical Summaries:** Students are asked to write five 650 word (2-3 page) critical summaries of the assigned reading. These will not only give a brief overview of current reading, or some interesting part of it, but will also give a concise critical analysis of it. The emphasis of these summaries will be on the critical examination of complex philosophical argumentation. Detailed comments will be given on all writing assignments to help students improve their skills in both analytic reasoning and composition on subsequent assignments. For an explanation of what is involved in philosophical writing, please see the Philosophy Department’s writing guidelines.

Summaries will be checked for originality by Turnitin.com. Summaries may be submitted up to 24 hours late but will receive a 10% penalty (12 points). No credit will be given to summaries submitted to a dropbox more than 24 hours late, though notice that in most cases, you will have the option of submitting that summary to the next open dropbox with no penalty.

Students who do not submit at least three summaries satisfying the suggested page length will receive a grade of F in the course. Students who submit only three summaries may fail as well, and in any case are very unlikely to receive a grade of C- or better.

It is your responsibility to insure that all of your summaries are properly submitted. It is a requirement of this course that you check to be sure you have received credit for each summary before the next one is due. Negligence in this regard can mean failing the course even though you have done all of the work. You cannot get credit for your summaries if you do not turn them in.

**Makeup Summaries:** Students will have the opportunity to submit two makeup summaries. If you submit more than five summaries, the best five scores will be used to calculate her course grade.

**Final Exam:** The exam will consist of three essay questions- one question on each of the three major traditions we will study (Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism). Recommended length of response is 2 pages minimum for each question. Essay topics will be drawn from a list handed out in advance; at least one question will be mandatory, and chosen at random. You will be allowed to use two pages of notes; the required format for these will be described in a separate handout.

**Attendance Credit:** Attendance is required. A credit of 60 points will be given to students who come to lecture regularly, are attentive, and do not disrupt class. If you miss no more than 6 hours of lecture, you will receive full attendance credit. Unless you are missing an exam, advance notice of your absence is not necessary, and neither is a doctor's note. Penalties will be assessed against the attendance credit for all unexcused absences at the rate of 9 points per lecture hour, which is 12 points per 75 minute class meeting. Those whose attendance credit falls below zero will automatically fail the course.

If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed; your absence, even for good cause, does not place any obligation on me to provide you with a review of lecture, missed handouts, etc. It is prudent to make the acquaintance of a classmate in order to make it easier to catch up on any material you may miss.

If you arrive after roll is called you will receive half credit for attendance on that day. If you miss the roll for any reason you are obliged to make your presence known to me after class if you want credit for being there.

**Participation Credit:** You will receive up to 40 points on the basis of your preparedness in class to discuss the assigned reading, previous lecture material, and to participate in any practice
quizzes that may be given. You can also earn participation credit for coming to office hours.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit may be given for distinguished course participation, both in class and during office hours. Normally no more than 20 points of extra credit will be given for such participation, but this limit may be extended in recognition of outstanding effort or exceptional mastery of the course material. Extra credit of up to 15 points may also be given for completing instructor evaluations. No other form of extra credit will be offered.

**Online Instruction:** Some of the instruction for this course may be given online. Normally, online instruction will be intended to supplement lecture material; it will give you important background to help you understand the lecture and readings, and provide valuable information for inclusion in the essay portion of your exams. However, exams may be based on any of the course materials made available to you, and in some cases online materials may be your primary source of exam-relevant instruction.

**Disability Accommodation:** If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to Services to Students with Disabilities, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

**Testing Center:** If you take your final exam in the testing center, please insure that it will be returned to the Philosophy Department by the time I am scheduled to give my last final. If I do not receive your final in a timely manner you may be assigned a grade of WU. If the testing center will permit it, you may hand-carry your exam to the Philosophy Department in a sealed envelope. You may also be able to take your exam in the Philosophy Department. If we have the resources you need for your exam, you should consider doing this.

**Missed Exams:** If you are going to miss an exam, please contact me soon as possible. There will be a penalty equal to 20% of the points possible on the exam unless you are able to document serious and compelling reasons for missing the exam. There are no exceptions to the requirement for documentation— not even for funerals.

**Withdrawal from the course:** Please be mindful of drop deadlines. After the end of the second week of classes, you will be asked to justify any request to withdraw, and if your explanation is not satisfactory your petition to withdraw will be denied.

**Incompletes** will be granted only when circumstances beyond a student's control prevent them from completing the course. Normally there will not be more than a single assignment outstanding; otherwise, withdrawal is the appropriate remedy. Incompletes will not be granted after a student has failed the course for nonattendance. Absent extenuating circumstances, arrangements for an incomplete must be made prior to the end of finals week. In all cases I will have to set up an incomplete contract which you must accept online at least 48 hours before grades are due.

**Laptop Computers:** Laptops, tablets, and smartphones may not be used in class.

**Academic Dishonesty:** This usually involves using unauthorized notes during an exam or plagiarism, which is presenting the work of someone else—whether copied or paraphrased—as one's own. When material is copied without use of quotation marks, plagiarism is presumed. Please understand that it is not enough simply to reword material you find online to avoid the charge of plagiarism. You are responsible for what you turn in; check to be sure all appropriate citations are included in your paper. Those who permit others to cheat are considered accomplices and thus guilty of plagiarism themselves. If unauthorized notes are found to be accessible to you during an exam, you will be presumed to be using them.
You must not use, or even handle, anyone else's clicker after the start of lecture. This will be considered cheating.

Please review the University's policies regarding academic dishonesty. The library also maintains a very useful page on plagiarism.

Anyone caught cheating will lose credit for the assignment on which they cheated, with no possibility of make-up. The minimum penalty will be 150 points, which is likely to drop the offender 1-2 letter grades in the course. If your clicker is used while you are not in attendance, the penalty will be 150 points against you as well as the person who uses your clicker on your behalf. Please be aware that I am required to report all cases of cheating to the University's Office of Student Conduct, which may take further action.

Outside Sources: Students sometimes try to use material from outside sources on their course assignments, when they find that their notes are inadequate—perhaps because they were not attentive during lecture, did not understand the lecture and did not ask for help, did not do the required reading, or were simply absent. If you consult outside sources you should indicate the source of your material in your work. You are strongly advised to check these sources with me, as many (e.g. Wikipedia) are unreliable and therefore completely unsatisfactory for scholarly purposes. Students sometimes fail their assignments when they rely on such dubious sources.

I recommend, as a source for background information, the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Articles in the IEP, unlike those in Wikipedia, are reviewed for accuracy by people who know something about the subject matter. Another good source for advanced work is the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, though many of its articles are not written with an undergraduate audience in mind.