ARTS2363

Chinese Philosophy

Term 3, 2022
Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karyn Lai</td>
<td><a href="mailto:k.lai@unsw.edu.au">k.lai@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Tues 10-11, or email to organise an appointment</td>
<td>MB326, Morven Brown Building</td>
<td>+61 (02) 9065 5421</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Tel: 02 9348 0406

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au
Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.

Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous  UNSW's Indigenous strategy
Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

In this course, you will study Confucianism and Daoism (Taoism), philosophies which originated from China and which continue to influence thinking and practices in China and beyond. You will also learn about lesser-known Chinese philosophies including Mohism, Legalism and Chinese Buddhism. The course investigates a range of topics in early Chinese philosophy such as ethics and politics, conceptions of knowledge, and views of reality and the world. We discuss how the early thinkers in China thought about these issues and draws on their insights to enhance contemporary debates. Although the course will focus on a study of traditional Chinese philosophies, it will also consider comparative east-west perspectives and their contemporary relevance.

Note: No previous knowledge of Chinese culture or language is assumed.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. articulate the themes and issues raised in the various traditions in early Chinese philosophy
2. identify methodologies and philosophical argumentation in early Chinese philosophy
3. engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas in Chinese Philosophy
4. explain the contemporary significance of aspects of Chinese philosophy
5. communication ideas effectively in formal and informal writing

Teaching Strategies

My teaching in this course is very much informed by my research in the area, with special focus on the interactions between Chinese and Western philosophy. The course will introduce you to up-to-date research in Chinese and comparative Philosophy. My approach to teaching is to involve you as an active learner as much as possible. My lectures, online materials and tutorials are designed for you to actively engage in the course. You are strongly advised to undertake a consistent reading program and encouraged to participate in class and online discussions. The lectures, online materials and tutorials, as well as the assignments, have been aligned to introduce you systematically to the content of Chinese philosophy as well as to encourage and develop your skills in critical thinking, argumentation and research. Prompt and detailed feedback on assignments can be expected.
Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment task</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reflections and Quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30 Sept, 14 Oct, 17 Nov</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Test</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>27 October</td>
<td>1, 2, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Research Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>26/11/2022 11:55 PM</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment 1: Reflections and Quizzes**

**Assessment length:** Various  
**Submission notes:** Tests will be conducted either online or in-person  
**Due date:** 30 Sept, 14 Oct, 17 Nov

Formative assessment. This assessment component is comprised by Moodle discussion posts, multiple-choice and short answer questions in three selected weeks. The maximum word length for each iteration is 300 words.

These assessments are timed between lectures and tutorials in relevant weeks, so that students are encouraged to read the material, and think through the lecture, before they attend the tutorial. The tutorials will then pick up on some of the key and significant questions raised by students for discussion. The selected weeks will be set out in the course outline. Students will receive individual feedback on their reflections. A marking rubric is used to guide students on the marking criteria. Each discussion will be graded out of a maximum of 10 marks, and the total of 3 iterations weighted to 40%.

**Additional details**

Assessment 1A: 30 Sept  
Assessment 1B: 14 Oct  
Assessment 1C: 17 Nov

**Assessment 2: Test**

**Assessment length:** 600 words  
**Due date:** 27 October

Formative assessment; conducted in tutorials. This test is comprised by two short questions, and a maximum word length of 300 words each.

Students will receive written feedback, with a mark. The test will be graded out of a maximum of 10 marks.

**Additional details**
Assessment 3: Research Essay

Assessment length: 2500
Due date: 26/11/2022 11:55 PM

Summative assessment. This research essay is 2500 words. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

A marking rubric will be available on Moodle on the assignment’s page. Students will receive feedback via the marking rubric on Moodle. This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

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## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Content</th>
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</table>
| O week: 5 September - 9 September | Reading | Chapter 1: Chinese Philosophy (from textbook, *Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*)  
Online Activity | Here is a quick introduction, given by Karyn Lai, to the idea of change in Chinese philosophy.  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ebp2U2O9194 |
| Week 1: 12 September - 16 September | Reading | Chapter 2. Confucius and the Analects  
Seminar | **Monday**: What is Chinese philosophy? What did Confucius say?  
**Thursday**: Confucius' Analects. Doing the right actions and feeling the right way. |
| | Tutorial | How did you learn to be moral? |
| Week 2: 19 September - 23 September | Reading | Chapter 3. Human nature and cultivation in Confucian Philosophy  
Seminar | **Monday**: Mencius: human nature is good.  
**Thursday**: Xunzi: human nature is bad. |
| | Tutorial | Debate: Is human nature good or evil? |
| Week 3: 26 September - 30 September | Reading | Chapter 4. Early Mohist Philosophy  
Seminar | **Monday**: Early opponents of Confucianism: the Mohists  
**Thursday**: Mohist impartial concern, and who would you leave your parents with? |
<p>| | Tutorial | Are emotions an important part of our moral lives? Do we need emotions to be moral? |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th><strong>Assessment 1A: 30 Sept</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Material covered in classes in weeks 1 &amp; 2. Chapters 1-3 of the textbook.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4: 3 October - 7 October</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Chapter 5. Daoism and the <em>Daodejing</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>: no face to face classes: public holiday (make up class available online)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong>: What is <em>dao</em> (<em>tao</em>)?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Reading the <em>Daodejing</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5: 10 October - 14 October</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Chapter 6. The Mingjia and the Later Mohists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>: What does <em>wuwei</em> (non-action) mean, in the <em>Daodejing</em>?</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong>: How does language help us understand the world: Later Mohist Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Language and the world</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td><strong>Assessment 1B: 14 October</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Material covered in classes in weeks 3-4. Chapters 4 &amp; 5 of the textbook.</td>
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| Week 6: 17 October - 21 October | Homework | **FLEX WEEK. There are no classes this week. Take the opportunity to catch up on your readings this week, if you haven't kept up with them. This is also the time to start thinking about the essay topic you would like to work on.** |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7: 24 October - 28 October</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Chapter 7. Legalist Philosophy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>: The instruments of the government: Legalist philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong>: Power, authority, morality and civic life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td><strong>Assessment: Test 27th Oct. Held in tutorial hour.</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Material covered in classes in weeks 1-5. Chapters 1-6 of the textbook.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 8: 31 October - 4 November</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Chapter 8. The Zhuangzi</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>: What if the world is always in flux? Understanding the world of Zhuangzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9: 7 November - 11 November</td>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Reading passages in the <em>Zhuangzi</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Zhuangzi readings in Leganto</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 10. Chinese Buddhism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>: How do you become an expert? Skill and mastery in the <em>Zhuangzi</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong>: Buddhism: key characteristics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Exploring causation in Buddhist philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10: 14 November - 18 November</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Chinese Buddhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>: The concept of mind in Chinese Buddhism's different schools</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong>: How do I write a good research essay?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td><strong>Assessment 1C</strong>: 17 Nov., conducted during the tutorial hour</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Materials covered in classes in weeks 7-9. Chapters 7 &amp; 8 of the textbook.</td>
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Resources

Prescribed Resources

*An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy (Hardcopy book), 2nd edition*

$47.95
Our Price: $44.59

OR

*An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy eText, 2nd edition*

Available from $36.30 AUD

Recommended Resources

Recommended supplementary readings are available on Leganto, via Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

The course this year will incorporate more first-hand reading of the texts. Students in previous years were keen to look at the range of primary texts. The classroom and online teaching components will provide more opportunities to do this.

This year, instead of having 2 hours lecture + 2 hours tutorial, we will have:

- Two 1hr 30 mins seminars (Monday and Thursday)
- 1 hour tutorial (Thursday)

This is to enable us to have a more interactive time when we meet in the seminars, for discussions. It is important that you be present at the classes as we will have quite hands-on sessions so that you can read the texts first-hand!

The assessments will cover all components of the classes, including from the live lecture, the online activity and the tutorials.
Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course’s Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.
Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- **Copying**: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- **Inappropriate paraphrasing**: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- **Collusion**: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- **Inappropriate citation**: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- **Duplication ("self-plagiarism")**: Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library
Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean’s List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

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