

Philosophy 306: Philosophies of China and Japan
CSU Long Beach
Spring 2015

Day/Time: Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:45PM

Location: LA1-304

Course website: available on BeachBoard

Credits: 3

Instructor Info

Dr. Philip Walsh

Office Location: MHB-910

Office Hours: Tu / Thurs 2-3PM

Email: PhilipJames.Walsh@csulb.edu

Catalog Description and Content:

Historical and critical study of the philosophical thought of China and Japan.

Course Overview:

The philosophical traditions of China and Japan are vast and complex and could never be exhaustively covered in a single semester, therefore the primary foci of this course will be the major schools of classical Chinese philosophy and the development of Buddhism in China and Japan. Major themes of the course will include Confucianism, Taoism, Chinese political philosophy, Ch'an and Zen Buddhism, as well as the philosophy of the Kyoto School in 20th Century Japan. We will approach the texts of these traditions as philosophers, which is to say critically and in search of how the authors' understanding of human nature and the world are integrated with specific ethical or moral claims. At times we will compare some of these ideas with Western philosophy (e.g. Confucianism and virtue ethics), but we will constantly remain vigilant about the unique social and historical contexts in which these philosophies arose.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to discuss, interpret, and apply the concepts and arguments associated with the major issues in Chinese and Japanese philosophy.
2. Students will be able to explain the relevance of the social and historical contexts in which different Chinese and Japanese philosophies arose.
3. Students will be able to make and defend a claim regarding the extent of the connection between different traditions studied.

Texts and Required Readings:

Van Norden. *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Hackett, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-6038-468-0 (paperback).

The Sutra of Hui Neng. Trans. Thomas Cleary. Shambala, 1998. ISBN: 978-1-57062-

348-6 (paperback).
The Heart of Dōgen's Shōbōgenzō. Trans. Norman Waddell & Masao Abe. SUNY Press,
2002. ISBN: 0-7914-5242-8 (paperback).
Additional readings will be made available online.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. 2 essays:
 - a. 3-5 page essay – 20%
 - b. 3-5 page essay – 30%
2. In-class reading quizzes – 25%
 - a. Lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped
3. Final exam – 25%
 - a. Short answer and essay questions

Attendance

Success in this course highly depends on regular attendance. You will not receive points simply for showing up, but attendance is incentivized through short, relatively easy reading quizzes. (I say “relatively easy” because they will only be easy if you actually do the reading.) Furthermore, if you miss a class and fail to provide official documentation (a doctor’s note, a note from the athletic department, etc.) you will not be given the opportunity to make up anything you missed, e.g. a quiz. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to inquire after anything you may have missed.

Students with Disabilities:

Accommodations for disabilities are handled through Disabled Student Services, and require verification from that office. Students needing accommodations for a disability should contact Disabled Student Services as soon as possible: <http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/students/dss/>

Academic Integrity Policy:

Students should be familiar with CSULB’s definitions and policies regarding cheating and plagiarism, found here:

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic_information/cheating_plagiarism.html

Note that it is the school’s policy to allow faculty to handle academic dishonesty as they see fit. This means I reserve the right to deal with instances of dishonesty by means of verbal warning, requiring that an assignment be redone, assigning a grade of zero for the assignment, and/or filing a formal report recommending failure for the course, suspension, or expulsion from school. The internet makes plagiarism more tempting these days, however it also makes it much easier for the instructor to catch. Do not do it. It is not worth it.

Equity and Diversity Policy:

In addition to meeting fully its obligations of nondiscrimination under federal and state law, CSULB is committed to creating a community in which a diverse population can live, learn, and work in an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the rights and sensibilities of each individual, without regard to economic status, ethnic background, political views, or other personal characteristics or beliefs. The classroom is a place of conversation and debate. Disagreement is to be expected, especially when considering ideas that relate to people's philosophical and religious beliefs. This does not give anyone the right to demean or ridicule the ideas and opinions of others. The instructor reserves the right to remove anyone from class who threatens civility.

Policy on Electronic Devices

Laptops and cell phones have been shown to distract from learning in the classroom. Cell phone use is not allowed in class. Laptops may be used for taking notes only, and I reserve the right to disallow them if their use becomes a problem or to enhance discussion.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change at discretion of instructor)

Jan. 20 Jan. 22	Topic: Introduction to course / historical and philosophical overview Reading: Van Norden pp. 1-15; 223-233
Jan. 27 Jan. 29	Topic: Kongzi (Confucius) and Confucianism Reading: Van Norden pp. 18-47
Feb. 3 Feb. 5	Topic: Mengzi (Mencius) Reading: Van Norden pp. 83-100
Feb. 10 Feb. 12	Topic: Laozi (Lao Tzu) and the Daodejing Reading: Van Norden pp. 121-139
Feb. 17 Feb. 19	Topic: Zhuangzi (Chuang Tzu) Reading: Van Norden pp. 141-162
Feb. 24 Feb. 26	Topic: Xunzi (Hsun Tzu) Reading: Van Norden pp. 163-183 FIRST PAPER ASSIGNED
Mar. 3 Mar. 5	Topic: Han Feizi (Han Fei Tzu) Reading: Van Norden pp. 185-199

Mar. 10 Mar. 12	Topic: Summary and Review
Mar. 17 Mar. 19	FIRST PAPER DUE MONDAY MARCH 16 @ 11:59PM Topic: Chinese Buddhism Reading: <i>The Sutra of Hui Neng</i> (pp. 5-81)
Mar. 24 Mar. 26	Topic: Chinese Buddhism Reading: <i>The Diamond Sutra</i> (online pdf)
Mar. 31 Apr. 2	SPRING BREAK
Apr. 7 Apr. 9	Topic: Review / Japanese Pure Land Buddhism Reading: http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/japanese-pure-land/#JapPurLanBudTho
Apr. 14 Apr. 16	Topic: Japanese Zen Buddhism Reading: <i>The Heart of Dōgen's Shōbōgenzō Busshō</i> (pp. 59-98)
Apr. 21 Apr. 23	Topic: Japanese Zen Buddhism Reading: <i>The Heart of Dōgen's Shōbōgenzō Genjōkōan</i> (pp. 39-46); <i>Uji</i> (pp. 47-58); <i>Zazengi</i> (pp. 109-110) SECOND PAPER ASSIGNED
Apr. 28 Apr. 30	Topic: The Kyoto School Reading: Tetsurō Watsuji, "The Significance of Ethics as the Study of Man"
May 5 May 7	Topic: Summary and Review
May 11- May 15	SECOND PAPER DUE: Thursday May 14 FINAL EXAM: Tuesday May 12, 12:30-2:30PM (bring blue book)