

EALC 110gp East Asian Humanities: The Great Tradition Spring 2019



Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 3.30 - 4.50 p.m.

Taper Hall of Humanities (THH) 102

Instructor: Géraldine Fiss, Ph.D., gfiss@usc.edu

Office Hours: THH 356J, Tuesday 2-4 p.m.

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Scope of the Course:

This course will introduce the fundamental humanistic traditions of China, Korea and Japan through representative works of traditional philosophy, religion, poetry, historical writing and aesthetics. The readings are mostly from primary sources as translated into English and secondary scholarship. No previous knowledge of an East Asian culture or language is expected.

In this course you will:

- 1) Perceive the signs of Chinese, Korean and Japanese cultural identities, surviving from ancient to modern times, and appreciate their relevance and value today.
- 2) Examine human ethics from different, sometimes mutually opposing perspectives: Confucian, Daoist, Legalist and Buddhist.
- 3) Read and analyze key historical, philosophical, religious and poetic texts of the East Asian classical traditions.

Requirements and Grades:

- 1) **Attendance and Participation in Lecture and Top Hat** – 10%
- 2) **Attendance and Participation in Discussion Session** – 10%
- 3) **2 Discussion Board Posts** – 5%
- 4) **Team Presentation** – 5%
- 5) **Midterm Exam** on Monday, March 4 – 20%
- 6) **Analytical Paper** (7-8 pages, double-spaced) due on Monday, April 29 – 25%
- 7) **Final Exam** on Friday, May 3 – 25%

Required Texts

The three required books below are available for purchase at the USC Bookstore. Additional required readings will be available for download on the Blackboard course web site.

- 1) Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh. *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life*. Simon & Schuster, 2016. (ISBN 978-1-4767-7783-2)
- 2) Bryan Van Norden. *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Hackett, 2011. (ISBN 978-1-60384-468-0)
- 3) Philip Ivanhoe and Bryan Van Norden, eds. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy (Second Edition)*. Hackett, 2005. (ISBN 978-0-87220-780-6).
- 4) Additional required readings will be available for download on Blackboard for certain lectures, as indicated in the syllabus. These readings will be taken from the following books, which are all available on course reserve at Leavey Library: *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, *Sources of Korean Tradition*, *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, and *Essential Chan Buddhism*.

Lecture Attendance, Participation and Top Hat (10%)

You are required to attend lectures and to come prepared having done the readings assigned for that day. **We highly encourage you to participate actively, respond to the instructor's questions and share your reflections about the topic at hand.** Both attendance and participation will count toward your course contribution grade. During many lectures, you will have opportunities to participate using your devices via Top Hat. Please familiarize yourself with the Top Hat platform at www.tophat.com and purchase membership when prompted to do so by your instructor. You may be absent one time from lecture without negatively impacting your participation grade. However, keep in mind that when you are not present, you clearly cannot gain positive participation points.

Discussion Sessions

The purpose of discussion sessions is to give each student an opportunity to engage closely with the texts, issues and ideas presented during lecture. In addition, these weekly meetings also provide you an opportunity to hone your critical thinking, public speaking and formal presentation skills. There are three requirements that you must fulfill to do well in your discussion session:

1. **Attendance and Participation (10%):** You must attend every session and come prepared having done all assigned readings carefully. You will be required to speak up and to contribute actively and thoughtfully to the class discussion. Your Teaching Assistant will grade the level and quality of your participation.
2. **2 Discussion Board Posts (5%):** Each student is required to compose and upload **one in-depth, analytical and thought-provoking discussion question and response** (of about 500 words per post) to the discussion session Blackboard web site at least **twice during the semester**. You are required to upload your post prior to your weekly class meeting and discuss your two questions and responses in class.
3. **Team Presentation and Discussion Facilitation** (see below)

Team Presentation and Discussion Facilitation (5%)

As part of your participation grade, you will be asked to choose and focus on one of the key figures, texts or philosophical/moral concepts introduced in this course. You will then form a team with one or two classmates who wish to investigate the same topic, text or person.

Together, you will prepare a well-organized in-class presentation of about 15 minutes and facilitate class discussion during your discussion session for about 5 minutes. The purpose here is to encourage you to use the materials posted to the Blackboard web site for each lecture as well as other sources to deepen your knowledge about your chosen topic and then share what you have learned. You are welcome (but are not required) to integrate PowerPoint slides, film clips and other media into your presentation to make it interesting, engaging and enriching for your audience.

Communication: Blackboard

For this course we will use the Blackboard course website to post required readings, suggested films, recommended readings and important information about assignments and exams. **The PowerPoint slides, a list of “Important Concepts to Know” and discussion questions will be uploaded after each lecture.** In addition, supplementary readings and materials may be uploaded to Blackboard on a regular basis. Though some of these readings are optional and not required, you may find them very useful in order to gain more in-depth understanding, which will be helpful for your team presentations, the writing of your analytical papers and the exams. You will receive notifications when these additional resources are available but it is your responsibility to check the course web site on a regular basis. **Students are also welcome – indeed, highly encouraged! – to post thoughtful comments, questions and ideas on the discussion thread for each topic.** Please make sure that your e-mail address is up to date on Blackboard.

Class Notes Policy

Notes or recordings made by students based on a university class or lecture may only be made for purposes of individual or group study. Class materials such as lectures, course syllabi and related materials, including summaries, PowerPoint slides and all supplementary course materials available to students enrolled in this course, whether posted on Blackboard or otherwise, may not be reproduced, redistributed, copied or disseminated in any media or in any form including, but not limited to, all course note-sharing websites.

Academic Conduct and Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with USC’s plagiarism policy in *SCampus* in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards: <https://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/>

Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct: <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>

Discrimination, sexual assault and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the Department of Public Safety <http://dps.usc.edu/online-forms/contact-us>

This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Engemann Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/> provides 24/7 offers confidential support and the Sexual Assault Resource Center web page <https://sarc.usc.edu/> describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute <http://ali.usc.edu/> which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international students. The Office of Disability Services and Program <https://dsp.usc.edu/> provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus not feasible, USC Emergency Information <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued.

Topics and Readings:

Monday, January 7: Introduction to the Course

I. Myth, Early History and the Period of the Philosophers

Wednesday, January 9: The Historical Context

Chapter 1 “The Historical Context” in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 1-15.

Preface, Chapter 1 “The Age of Complacency” and Chapter 2, “The Age of Philosophy” in *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life*, 1-22.

II. The Confucians: Confucius, Mencius and Xunzi

Monday, January 14: Happiness in the Everyday World: Five Themes of Confucianism

Chapter 2 “Kongzi and Confucianism” in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 17-32.

Chapter 1 *The Analects* in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 1-16 (up to *Book Six*).

Wednesday, January 16: Confucius and Virtue Ethics

Chapter 3 “Kongzi and Virtue Ethics” in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 33-47.

Chapter 1 *The Analects* in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 16-57 (up to *Book Twelve*).

***** Monday, January 21: Martin Luther King Day / No Lecture! *****

Wednesday, January 23: Confucius and As-if Rituals

Chapter 3 “On Relationships: Confucius and As-If Rituals” in *The Path*, 23-53.

Chapter 1 *The Analects in Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 33-57.

Monday, January 28: Mencius and Human Nature

Chapter 6 “Mengzi and Human Nature” in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 83-100.

Chapter 3 *Mengzi in Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 114-134 (up to 3B9).

Wednesday, January 30: Mencius and the Capricious World

Chapter 4 “Mencius and the Capricious World” in *The Path*, 55-85.

Chapter 3 *Mengzi in Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 134-159.

Monday, February 4: Xunzi’s Confucian Naturalism

Chapter 10 “Xunzi’s Confucian Naturalism” in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 163-183.

Chapter 6, *Xunzi in Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 254-269 (up to *Chapter Seventeen: Discourse on Heaven*).

Wednesday, February 6: Xunzi and Putting Pattern on the World

Chapter 8, “On Humanity: Xunzi and Putting Pattern on the World” in *The Path*, 163-181.

Chapter 6, *Xunzi in Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 269-309.

Optional Film: *Hero* by Zhang Yimou (2002). (Several copies available for viewing on course reserve at Leavey Library).

III. Critics of Confucianism: Mohism (Mozi), Legalism (Han Feizi) and *The Art of War* (Sunzi)

Monday, February 11: Mozi’s Doctrines and Mohist Consequentialism

Chapter 4 “Mohist Consequentialism” in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 49-68.

Chapter 2 *Mozi in Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 58-113.

Wednesday, February 13: Han Feizi: Legalism, the Way of the Ruler and the Power of Position

Chapter 11 *Han Feizi in Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 185-199.

Chapter 7 *Han Feizi in Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 309-361.

***** Monday, February 18: President’s Day / No Lecture *****

Wednesday, February 20: Legalist Theories in Practice: The Qin State, Li Si and *The Art of War* by Sunzi

Required Reading available on Blackboard: *Sources of Chinese Tradition* 206-223.

Optional Film: Jacob Cheung, *A Battle of Wits* (2006). (Several copies available for viewing on course reserve at Leavey Library).

IV. Daoism: The Teachings of Laozi

Monday, February 25: The *Daodejing*: The Teaching that Is Without Words

Chapter 8 “The *Daodejing* and Mysticism” in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 121-139

Chapter 4 *Laozi* in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 160-178 (up to *Chapter Thirty-Two*).

Wednesday, February 27: Laozi and the Way

Chapter 5 “On Influence: Laozi and Generating Worlds” in *The Path*, 87-117.

Chapter 4 *Laozi* in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 178-205.

Optional Fun Reading: *The Tao of Pooh* by Benjamin Hoff (1982). (Available as e-book on Blackboard or on Leavey Library course reserve.)

***** Monday, March 4: Midterm Exam on Sections I – IV *****

V. The Mystical Way of Zhuangzi

Wednesday, March 6: Zhuangzi’s Skepticism and Relativism

Chapter 9 “Zhuangzi’s Therapeutic Skepticism and Relativism” in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 141-162.

Chapter 5 *Zhuangzi* in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 206-224 (up to *Chapter Three: The Key to Nourishing Life*).

***** Happy Spring Break: March 10 – 17! *****

Monday, March 18: Zhuangzi and a World of Transformation

Chapter 7 “On Spontaneity: Zhuangzi and a World of Transformation” in *The Path*, 141-162.

Chapter 5 *Zhuangzi* in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 224-253.

Optional Fun Reading: Chih-chung Tsai, *Zhuangzi Speaks: The Music of Nature* (1992 comic book!). (Available as e-book on Blackboard or on Leavey Library course reserve.)

VI. Empire and the Way of Heaven

Wednesday, March 20: The Yin-Yang School, Five Phases Theory and the Doctrine of the Mean

Required Reading available on Blackboard: *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy* 244-250; *The Doctrine of the Mean* 26-40.

Optional Additional Reading: Read the rest of the document that contains the *Doctrine of the Mean* and the *Great Learning* if you can.

Monday, March 25: The Way of Heaven: Han Dynasty Daoist Confucianism and the Thought of Dong Zhongshu

Required Reading available on Blackboard: *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy* 271-288.

VII. Early Korea: Three Kingdoms and Unified Silla

Wednesday, March 27: Origins of Korean Culture

Required Reading available on Blackboard: *Sources of Korean Tradition* 3-33.

Monday, April 1: Chinese Thought, Shamanic Beliefs, Poetry and Song in Unified Silla

Required Reading available on Blackboard: *Sources of Korean Tradition* 51-56; 65-77; 109-116.

VIII. Shinto: The Ancient Way of Japan

Wednesday, April 3: Foundation Myths and Shinto: Japan's Native Tradition

Required Reading available on Blackboard: *Sources of Japanese Tradition* 3-39; 358-363.

Monday, April 8: The Ideal of Harmony and the Beginnings of Japan: Prince Shōtoku's Seventeen-Article Constitution

Required Reading available on Blackboard: *Sources of Japanese Tradition* 40-62.

IX. Buddhist Practice in China, Korea and Japan: Chan / Son / Zen

Wednesday, April 10: Buddhist Doctrine and The Coming of Buddhism to China

Required Reading available on Blackboard: *Sources of Chinese Tradition* 415-432.

Monday, April 15: Chan Buddhism in China: The Meditation School

Required Readings available on Blackboard: *Sources of Chinese Tradition* 491-536; Excerpts from *Essential Chan Buddhism* by Chan Master Guo Jun: "Introduction,"

“Impermanence,” “Breath,” “Heart-to-Heart: Sitting,” “Relaxation” and “Connecting to the World,” “Farming Meditation” and “Floating” on pages 1-32.

Optional Additional Reading: Read the rest of the book *Essential Chan Buddhism* (on reserve at Leavey Library).

Wednesday, April 17: Korean Son and Japanese Zen Buddhism

Required Readings available on Blackboard: *Sources of Korean Tradition* 34-51; *Sources of Japanese Tradition* 306-335.

X. Classical Poetry and Aesthetic Ideals

Monday, April 22: Classical Chinese Poetry and the Legacy of Classical Chinese Poetics: The *Classic of Poetry* (*Shijing*), The *Elegies of Chu* (*Chuci*) and Tang Poetry

Required Readings available on Blackboard: Stephen Owen, *An Anthology of Chinese Literature*:

“The Classic of Poetry: Beginnings” 10-25; “The *Chu-ci*: “Lyrics of Chu” 155-162; “Tang Poetry: General Introduction” 371-384; “High Tang Poetry” 385-406; and “Du Fu” 413-421.

Optional Additional Readings available on Blackboard: Read the rest of the chapters by Stephen Owen listed above AND the following in Stephen Owen, *Anthology of Chinese Literature*: “Early China: Period Introduction” 3-29; “The Tang Dynasty: Period Introduction” 365-370.

Wednesday, April 24: Japanese Poetry and Aesthetic Ideals: The Realm of Yūgen, Japanese Haiku and Tea Ceremony

Required Readings available on Blackboard: Ki no Tsurayuki’s Preface to the *Kokinshū*; *Sources of Japanese Tradition* 197-210; 364-372; 387-398.

***** Monday, April 29: Analytical Paper Due via Turn-it-in on your Discussion Session Site *****

***** Final Exam: Friday, May 3, 2-4 p.m. in THH 102 *****