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.

Teaching Assistants: Qui-Ha Nguyen (qhnguyen@usc.edu) and Jinhee Park (jinheoyp@usc.edu)

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, Participation and Quizzes on Top Hat – 15%
2) 2 Discussion Board Posts – 5%
3) Team Presentation – 5%
4) Midterm Exam on Monday, March 4 – 25%
5) Analytical Paper (7-8 pages, double-spaced) due on Monday, April 29 – 25%
6) 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.


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 (15%)
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. You may be absent up to three times 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**: 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 two in-depth, analytical and thought-provoking discussion questions and responses (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. 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

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 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 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 or Discussion Sessions! ***
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 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.

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

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;

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:


Wednesday, April 24: Japanese Poetry and Aesthetic Ideals: The Realm of Yugen, Japanese Haiku and Tea Ceremony
Required Readings available on Blackboard: Ki no Tsurayuki’s Preface to the Kokinshu; Sources of Japanese Tradition 197-210; 364-372; 387-398.

*** Monday, April 29: Analytical Paper Due via Turn-it-in ***

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