



## UNSW Course Outline

# ARTS2363 Chinese Philosophy - 2024

Published on the 20 Sep 2024

## General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2363

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Humanities and Languages

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

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 Aims**

## **Relationship to Other Courses**

This course is taught within the Philosophy discipline and students might like to take up the opportunity to study philosophy from a nonwestern perspective. Chinese philosophy offers different angles on a range of the 'big questions', including on the nature of ethics, identity, agency, politics and society. Students enrolled in International Studies, or in Chinese studies might specifically like to take this course to understand which aspects of the Chinese tradition are significant today. This course also attracts many students in Built Environment, Law and Commerce, broadening their perspective on their conception of the world.

# Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : articulate the themes and issues raised in the various traditions in early Chinese philosophy
CL02 : identify methodologies and philosophical argumentation in early Chinese philosophy
CL03 : engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas in Chinese Philosophy
CL04 : explain the contemporary significance of aspects of Chinese philosophy
CL05 : communication ideas effectively in formal and informal writing

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : articulate the themes and issues raised in the various traditions in early Chinese philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflections and Quizzes</li><li>• Research Essay</li></ul>
CL02 : identify methodologies and philosophical argumentation in early Chinese philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflections and Quizzes</li><li>• Research Essay</li></ul>
CL03 : engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas in Chinese Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflections and Quizzes</li><li>• Research Essay</li></ul>
CL04 : explain the contemporary significance of aspects of Chinese philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflections and Quizzes</li><li>• Research Essay</li></ul>
CL05 : communication ideas effectively in formal and informal writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Essay</li></ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams | Zoom | Echo 360

## Learning and Teaching in this course

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.

## Additional Course Information

I am taking an active approach to consider what students will learn from this course. I am integrating awareness of AI-generated material in class discussions and assignments, with a view to equipping students with greater agency in thinking about how they can *critically* think about such material. For AI use policy, please refer to the guidance provided under each Assignment. I seek to encourage students to move away from being merely passive actors, where they gain neither skills nor knowledge in simply getting AI to generate responses.

## Assessments

### Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Reflections and Quizzes Assessment Format: Individual	55%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable
Research Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	45%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 19/11/2024 11:55 PM

### Assessment Details

#### Reflections and Quizzes

##### Assessment Overview

Formative assessment. This assessment component is comprised by multi-choice and short answer questions in three selected weeks. The maximum word length for each iteration (if written responses are required) is 300 words.

These assessments are timed between lectures and tutorials in relevant weeks, so that students are encouraged to engage with the course material. The selected weeks will be set out in the course outline. Each discussion will be graded out of 100%, and the total of 3 iterations weighted to 55%.

Formative assessment.

A mark and feedback will be provided for each assignment.

##### Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : articulate the themes and issues raised in the various traditions in early Chinese

philosophy

- CLO2 : identify methodologies and philosophical argumentation in early Chinese philosophy
- CLO3 : engage in independent and reflective learning through assessing and responding to ideas in Chinese Philosophy
- CLO4 : explain the contemporary significance of aspects of Chinese philosophy

#### **Detailed Assessment Description**

There are 3 "reflections and quizzes" assignments that together will be weighted at 55%. All 3 assignments carry equal weight. These are Assessment 1a, Assessment 1b and Assessment 1c.

#### **Assessment 1a**

Multiple choice, held on Friday 4th October. Test runs for 40 mins.

#### **Assessment 1b**

Critical reading, held on Friday 25th October. Test runs for 1 hour.

#### **Assessment 1c**

Critical analysis, held on Thursday 14th November. Test runs for 1 hour 15 mins.

#### **Assessment Length**

Various

#### **Submission notes**

Tests will be conducted either online or in-person

#### **Assessment information**

#### **Assignment submission Turnitin type**

Not Applicable

#### **Generative AI Permission Level**

#### **Simple Editing Assistance**

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or

media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties. For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

**Machine translation** is not permitted as you are expected to write your essay in English. If you use editing or language improvement software, it is your responsibility to ensure that assistance in content production is not enabled.

Spell-checkers in word processing programs are permitted. Grammarly phrase reconstructions are permitted.

**\*For any usage of software**, as AI detection tools may confuse the telltale marks of language improvement software such as Grammarly with usage of generative AI, you are obliged to keep a copy or copies of a version or versions of your essay as it is before applying Grammarly or similar. This is your way of proving that you have not utilized software assistance in the *production, but only in the editing*, of the actual content of your essay. In cases of suspicion, a failure to prove the authenticity by providing such copies may lead to treating it as if AI-produced.

## Research Essay

### Assessment Overview

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.

### Course Learning Outcomes

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- CL04 : explain the contemporary significance of aspects of Chinese philosophy
- CL05 : communicate ideas effectively in formal and informal writing

### Detailed Assessment Description

Essay questions will be provided by week 7 of the course. The due date for the research essay is Tuesday 19th November 2024, 11.55 pm.

### Assessment Length

2000

### Submission notes

Word file submitted on turnitin

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

### Generative AI Permission Level

#### **Planning/Design Assistance**

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to generate initial ideas, structures, or outlines. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e., what is generated by the tool, software or service should not be a part of your final submission. You should keep copies of your iterations to show your Course Authority if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.

If your Convenor has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text or media that have not been sufficiently modified you may be asked to explain your work, but we recognise that you are permitted to use AI generated text and media as a starting point and some traces may remain. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

You may use generative AI **ONLY** as 'inspiration' for assessment - as in a brainstorming process. Beyond that, use of generative AI is strictly prohibited. This means that, once you've generated some ideas that provide some basis for brainstorming, you will cease using AI when you write your piece.

**Remember: it is your responsibility to keep records of draft copies of your essays at every point so that, if necessary, you will be able to demonstrate the continuing development of your own writing. If you cannot provide drafts of earlier versions of work you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.**

You might also be asked to explain the work you have undertaken to write the essay, including to provide specific details about the research and readings you have incorporated into your essay. If you are unable to provide these details, you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

## General Assessment Information

Please note that use of A.I. software in composing your essay is not permitted and is considered a form of plagiarism.

Standard referencing software is permitted, but not Generative AI. If the use of generative AI such as ChatGPT is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Machine translation is not permitted as you are expected to write your essay in English. If you use editing or language improvement software, it is your responsibility to ensure that assistance in content production is not enabled.

**\*For any usage of software**, as AI detection tools may confuse the telltale marks of language improvement software such as Grammarly with usage of generative AI, you are obliged to keep a copy or copies of a version or versions of your essay as it is before applying Grammarly or similar. This is your way of proving that you have not utilized software assistance in the production of the actual content of your essay. In cases of suspicion, a failure to prove the authenticity by providing such copies may lead to treating it as if AI-produced.

### Grading Basis

Standard

### Requirements to pass course

#### Attendance Requirement

All classes are held in-person.

Students must meet the attendance requirement (i.e. must attend at least 75% of the lectures and tutorials, which is at least 20 of the 27 classes) in order to pass the course.

Students are required to attempt all assignments in order to pass the course. You are not required to pass every single assignment, but you have to attempt all of them.



# Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 2 September - 8 September	Reading	Textbook Chapter 1: Chinese Philosophy (from textbook, Introduction to Chinese Philosophy)
	Online Activity	This is a lecture I gave last year at the University of Aberdeen, which introduces the topic of change in Chinese philosophy. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gR4AP8kbE0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gR4AP8kbE0</a>
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Reading	Chapter 2. Confucius and the Analects
	Lecture	Tuesday: 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 : 16 September - 22 September	Reading	Chapter 3. Human nature and cultivation in Confucian Philosophy
	Lecture	Tuesday: Mencius: human nature is good. Thursday: Xunzi: human nature is bad.
	Tutorial	Debate: Is human nature good or evil?
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Reading	Chapter 4. Early Mohist Philosophy
	Lecture	Tuesday: How do we understand Knowledge in Confucian Philosophy? Thursday: Early opponents of Confucianism: the Mohists
	Tutorial	Mohist impartial concern: who would you leave your parents with? What motivates us to act morally? Doctrines or our feelings?
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Reading	Chapter 5. Daoism and the Daodejing
	Lecture	Tuesday: What is dao (tao)? Thursday: What does wuwei (non-action) mean, in the Daodejing?
	Tutorial	Reading the Daodejing
	Assessment	Reflections and Quizzes Assignment 1a: Multiple choice questions This is held on Friday 4th October. The test runs for 40 minutes. The time begins when you start it on Moodle. The test closes at 11:55 pm, so make sure you begin it with enough time to complete it. There will be 10 questions. Assessment preparation Material covered in classes in weeks 1 - 3. Chapters 2-4 of the textbook.
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Reading	Chapter 6. The Mingjia and the Later Mohists
	Lecture	Tuesday: How does language help us understand the world: Later Mohist Philosophy Thursday: Language and thought
	Tutorial	Language and the world Preparation for the Critical Reading Assignment (1b)
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 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
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Reading	Chapter 7. Legalist Philosophy
	Lecture	Tuesday: The instruments of the government: Legalist philosophy Thursday: Introduction to Zhuangzi
	Assessment	Tutorial: The place of the ruler and his power  Reflections and Quizzes Assignment 1b: Critical Reading This assessment will take place on Friday 25th October. 1 hour is allocated for the assignment. Instructions will be discussed in class. We will have a trial run in the week 5 tutorial. Assessment preparation Material covered in classes in week 4. Chapter 5 of the textbook.
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Reading	Chapter 8. The Zhuangzi
	Lecture	Tuesday: Wandering with Zhuangzi Thursday: What do we know, the Zhuangzi asks
	Tutorial	Reading passages in the Zhuangzi
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Reading	Chapter 8: The Zhuangzi Zhuangzi readings in Leganto
	Lecture	Tuesday: How do we learn to master a skill? Thursday: Freedom in the Zhuangzi

	Tutorial	How are essays assessed? In this tutorial, we study the final essay rubric closely and examine some past-year responses.
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Reading	Chapter 9: Chinese Buddhism
	Lecture	Tuesday: Chinese Buddhism: key characteristics Thursday: The concept of mind in Chinese Buddhism's different schools
	Assessment	Reflections and Quizzes Assignment 1c: Critical Analysis This is held on Thursday 14th November. The test runs for 1 hr 15 minutes. Students are asked to assess the quality of a short piece of writing. The time begins when you start it on Moodle. There will be 10 questions. Assessment preparation Materials covered in classes in weeks 7-9. Chapters 7 & 8 of the textbook.

## Attendance Requirements

### Attendance Requirement

All classes are held in-person.

Students must meet the attendance requirement (i.e. must attend at least 75% of the lectures and tutorials, which is at least 20 of the 27 classes) in order to pass the course.

Students are required to attempt all assignments in order to pass the course. You are not required to pass every single assignment, but you have to attempt all of them.

Other Considerations:

- Align with the course learning outcomes;
- Result in a recorded artefact (an artefact for participation may include a post, or response, to an online discussion forum, poll or quiz, when an artefact for mandatory attendance may include a record of attendance) and have processes in place for recording the student artefact;
- Where relevant, include evidence that the attendance or participation is required to meet a statutory or professional body requirement; and
- Be comparable where the activity is delivered in different modes.

## Course Resources

### Prescribed Resources

An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy (Hardcopy book), 2nd edition ~~\$49.95~~ [UNSW Bookshop](#)  
[Price: \\$46.45](#)

An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy eText, 2nd edition [Available from \\$ 39.95 AUD](#)

### Recommended Resources

Recommended supplementary readings are available on Leganto, via Moodle.

# Course Evaluation and Development

Students gave an overwhelmingly positive response to the course last year (100% agreed or strongly agreed they appreciated the course). The course incorporated more first-hand reading of the texts. Students were keen to look at the range of primary texts. This year's course will be structured similarly to enable these first-hand readings of texts.

Instead of having 2 hours lecture + 2 hours tutorial, we will have:

- Two 1hr 30 mins seminars (Tuesday 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.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Karyn Lai		MB326, Morven Brown Building	+61 (02) 9065 5421	Tues 3-4pm, or email to organise an appointment	No	Yes

## Other Useful Information

### Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Student equity and disability;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Examination information;
- Review of results;

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

## 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

## Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

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](#).

**Important note:** UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

## **School Contact Information**

### **School of Humanities & Languages**

**Email:** [hal@unsw.edu.au](mailto:hal@unsw.edu.au)

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

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