

# World Philosophies: China

Lecturer: Dr. Dobin Choi E-mail: [d.choi@phil.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:d.choi@phil.leidenuniv.nl)

Lectures: Friday 11:15-13:00. Class Room: Lipsius 0.28

Office Hours: by appointment, both online and in person

## ■ Introduction

This course will introduce students to the major early philosophical traditions of China that originated during the Warring States Period, including Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism, and Legalism. Students will explore both the distinct ideas and arguments as well as overlapping frameworks of these traditions of thought as they attempt to respond to the urgent moral, social, political, and envisioned cosmological crises out of which they emerged.

## ■ Course Texts

**The textbook:** *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*. eds. by PJ Ivanhoe and Bryan Van Norden. Hackett. 2005 (Cited as RC page numbers).

[https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/permalink/31UKB\\_LEU/18s393l/alma9939736872402711](https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/permalink/31UKB_LEU/18s393l/alma9939736872402711)

**Optional introductory books:** (you can use library links)

Van Norden, B. W. (2011). *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Hackett.

[https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/permalink/31UKB\\_LEU/18s393l/alma9938080305302711](https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/permalink/31UKB_LEU/18s393l/alma9938080305302711)

Lai, K. L. (2008). *An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*. Cambridge Univ.

[https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/permalink/31UKB\\_LEU/rdn04/cdi\\_askewsholts\\_vlebooks\\_9781107175501](https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/permalink/31UKB_LEU/rdn04/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781107175501)

## ■ Evaluation

Midterm Exam: 50%

Final Exam: 50%

**Academic Integrity:** Students who plagiarize assignments or cheat on any test will receive failing grades on the assignment and may be dropped from the class. All suspected cases will also be reported to the Examination Committee of the Institute for Philosophy, which will hold hearings on such cases.

## ■ Resit

The resit consists of a take-home exam and covers the final exam only. The grade for the midterm exam remains in place. No separate resit will be offered for the midterm test.

## ■ Inspection and feedback

How and when an exam review will take place will be disclosed together with the publication of the exam results at the latest. If a student requests a review within 30 days after publication of the exam results, an exam review will have to be organized.

## ■ Plagiarism:

See <https://www.organisatiegids.universiteitleiden.nl/en/regulations/general/plagiarism>

## Weekly Schedule

- Week 1** (Sept. 6) Introduction to the Course
- Week 2** (Sept. 13) What is Chinese Philosophy? A Brief History of Chinese Philosophy
- Ch.1 The Historical Context (pp.1–15), Van Norden (2011)  
[https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/permalink/31UKB\\_LEU/18s3931/alma9938080305302711](https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/permalink/31UKB_LEU/18s3931/alma9938080305302711)
- Week 3** (Sept. 20) Early Confucian Thought: Confucius and the *Analects*
- Kongzi: The *Lunyu*, RC books 1–6 (pp. 1–20)
- Week 4** (Sept. 27) Confucianism and Mohism
- Good (*Ren*) and Ritual (*Li*), books 12–13 (RC 33–40)
  - Mohist Inclusive Care, Mozi: Chapter 16, 17, 21 (RC 68–80)
- Week 5** (Oct. 11) Mohist Social Reformation and Its Standards
- Mozi, Chapter 8, 11, 32, 35 (RC 59–68, 105–111)
- Week 6** (Oct. 18) Restoration of the Way of Confucius: Mencius (I)
- Yangism: “Robber Zhi” (RC 369–374).
  - The Way of Confucius and Interest (RC 3B9, 7A26, 3A5, 1A1)
- Week 7** (Oct. 25) Inherent Goodness of Human Nature and Four Virtues: Mencius (II)
- The Virtues (RC 1A7, 2A2/6, 6A1–15 (144–151))
- \*\*\* Midterm Examination (Oct. 31, 09:00–12:00) \*\*\***
- Week 8** (Nov. 8) Early Daoism (I): Laozi, The *Daodejing*
- Book One, The Classic of *Dao* (Ch. 1–37 (RC 161–180)
- Week 9** (Nov. 15) Early Daoism (II): Laozi, The *Daodejing*
- Book Two, The Classic of *De* (Ch. 38–81 (RC 181–203)
- Week 10** (Nov. 22) Zhuangzi: Free Wandering of the World
- Selections of The *Zhuangzi*, Ch.1–4 (RC 207–229)
- Week 11** (Nov. 29) Xunzi: Crafting Human Nature and Sociopolitical Reformation
- Selections of The *Xunzi*, Ch. 1, 5, 17, 19, 23.
- Week 12** (Dec. 6) Han Fei’s Legalism
- Selections of The *Hanfeizi*, Ch. 5, 7, 49, 50.
- Week 13** (Dec. 13) World Philosophies: East Asia (China, Korea, Japan)
- Korean and Japanese Philosophical Texts (Brightspace).

**\*\*\* FINAL Examination (Jan. 13, 13:00–16:00) \*\*\***