

# Syllabus for a 13-week Course

## on

### Classical Chinese Philosophy

#### Required Textbooks:

- Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden, eds., *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2023).
- Bryan W. Van Norden, *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2011).

#### Week 1

Topic: Methodology and Historical Context.

#### Readings

- "Hermeneutics, or How to Read a Text," Appendix A in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*.
- "Introduction," in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., pp. xi-xvii.
- "The Historical Context," Chapter 1 in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*.

#### Optional Readings:

- Philip J. Ivanhoe, trans., *Master Sun's Art of War* (Hackett Publishing, 2011).

#### Week 2

Topic: Kongzi (Confucius) and Confucianism

#### Readings:

- "Kongzi and Confucianism," Chapter 2 in *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*.
- "Kongzi (Confucius), *Analects*," Chapter One in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

#### Optional Readings:

- A. R. Radcliffe-Brown, "Religion and Society," in Radcliffe-Brown, *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*, reprint (The Free Press, 1965), pp. 153-177.
- Edward G. Slingerland, trans., *Confucius: Analects: With Selections from Traditional Commentaries* (Hackett Publishing, 2003).

### Week 3

Topic: Approaches to Interpreting Kongzi (Confucius)

#### Readings:

- "Kongzi and Virtue Ethics," Chapter 3 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- "Kongzi as Systematic Philosopher," Appendix C in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

#### Optional Readings:

- David Jones, ed., *Confucius Now: Contemporary Encounters with the "Analects"* (Open Court Press, 2008).

### Week 4

Topic: Mozi (Mo Tzu) and Mohism

#### Readings:

- "Mozi," Chapter Two in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- "Mohist Consequentialism," Chapter 4 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

#### Optional Readings:

- Bryan W. Van Norden, "A Response to the Mohist Arguments in 'Impartial Caring,'" in Kim-chong Chong, Sor-hoon Tan and C .L. Ten, eds., *The Moral Circle and the Self* (Chicago: Open Court Press, 2003), pp. 41-58.

## Week 5

Topic: Yang Zhu (Yang Chu), Human Nature, and Egoism

### Readings:

- "Yangist Writings," Chapter Three in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***, 3rd ed.
- "*Great Learning* and *Mean*," Chapter Eleven in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***, 3rd ed.
- *Nature Comes from the Mandate*, Chapter Twelve in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***, 3rd ed.
- "Yang Zhu and Egoism," Chapter 5 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

### Optional Readings:

- "Yang Chu" from A.C. Graham, trans., *The Book of Lieh-tzu* (Columbia University Press, 1990).

## Week 6

Topic: Mengzi (Mencius) and the Revival of Confucianism

### Readings:

- "Mengzi (Mencius)," Chapter Four in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- "Mengzi and Human Nature," Chapter 6 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

### Optional Readings:

- David S. Nivison, *The Ways of Confucianism* (Chicago: Open Court Press, 1996), especially "Motivation and Moral Action in Mencius."

## Week 7

Topic: The Chinese Language and Philosophy

### Readings:

- "The Chinese Language and Writing System," Appendix B in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- "The School of Names," Chapter Five in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.
- "Language and Paradox in the 'School of Names,'" Chapter 7 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

## Week 8

Topic: Laozi (Lao Tzu) and the *Daodejing* (*Tao Te Ching*)

### Readings:

- "Laozi, *Daodejing*," Chapter Six in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- "The *Daodejing* and Mysticism," Chapter 8 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

### Optional Readings:

- Wang Bi, "Outline Introduction to the *Laozi*," in Richard John Lynn, trans., *The Classic of the Way and Virtue* (Columbia University Press, 2004).
- Shen Dao, Chapter Seven in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 3rd ed.

## Week 9

Topic: Zhuangzi (Chuang Tzu)

### Readings:

- "Zhuangzi," Chapter Eight in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- "Zhuangzi's Therapeutic Skepticism and Relativism," Chapter 9 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

## Week 10

Topic: Xunzi (Hsün Tzu)

### Readings:

- "Xunzi," Chapter Nine in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- "Xunzi's Confucian Naturalism," Chapter 10 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

## Week 11

Topic: Women and Gender in Chinese Thought

### Readings:

- Selections from Robin R. Wang, ed., *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2003), especially Oracle Bone Inscriptions on Women, Selections from the *Odes*, Baosi and King You of Zhou, Gongfu Wenbo's Mother, Selections from Ban Zhao, *Lessons for Women*.

### Optional Readings:

- Ann A. Pang-White, trans., *The Confucian Four Books for Women* (Oxford University Press, 2018), especially "Introduction: Uncovering the Confucian *Four Books for Women*."

## Week 12

Topic: Han Feizi (Han Fei Tzu) and Legalism

### Readings:

- Shen Dao, Chapter Seven in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.
- Han Feizi, Chapter Ten in ***Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy***.
- Han Feizi, Chapter 11 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

## Week 13

Topic: Later Developments

### Readings:

- "Later Chinese Thought," Chapter 12 in ***Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy***.

### Optional Readings:

- Selections from Tiwald and Van Norden, eds., *Readings in Later Chinese Philosophy* (Hackett Publishing, 2014), especially the introductions to the sections on Han Thought, Chinese Buddhism, Neo-Confucianism, Late Imperial Confucianism, and The Twentieth Century.