

Topics in Asian Philosophy (PHIL 205)
Spring 2016
Th 1:30-4:30
East College 107

Crispin Sartwell
Weiss 203b. ext 1474
crispinsartwell@gmail.com

This semester we will grapple with philosophical and spiritual thought originating in ancient China, focusing primarily on Confucianism, Taoism, and Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism. These are millennia-long traditions that have also profoundly influenced thought and practice elsewhere in the world, including in contemporary America.

Required Texts:

Herbert Fingarette, *Confucius: the Secular as Sacred* (Waveland)
Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, trans. Stephen Mitchell (Harper)
Chuang Tzu, *The Essential Chuang Tzu*, trans. Sam Hamill (Shambhala)
Wing-Tsit Chan, *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy* (Princeton)
Nelson Foster and Jack Shoemaker, *The Roaring Stream: A Zen Anthology* (Ecco)

Required Work:

(1) **one-page essays**, due every week or so, on the readings
(2) **mid-term and final exams**, with multiple-choice and essay sections. The exams are scheduled for March 10 in class and Tuesday May 10 at 2PM.
(3) one of the exams can be replaced by a **paper** of around 7 pages. In other words, you can take both exams, or instead of one of them, write a paper, due at the time the exam is given. An advantage of papers: if you are not satisfied with your grade on the first version, you can re-write it once for an entirely new grade.

Elaborate exam previews and paper suggestions will be provided.

Each of these elements will contribute 30% of your grade. The remaining 10% are assigned for participation and improvement through the semester.

Schedule:

January 28
Source Book, Chapter 1

February 4
Source Book, Chapter 2: Confucius

February 11

Confucius, continued; Fingarette, Chapters 1 and 2

February 18
Fingarette, chapters 3-5

February 25
Tao Te Ching

March 3
Source Book 3: Mencius
Source Book 9: Mo Tzu

March 10
mid-term examination (or paper)

March 24
Chuang Tzu

March 31
Source Book 6: Hsün Tzu
Source Book 19 and *Book of the Forest Path* (Moodle): Kuo Hsiang and Neo-Taoism

April 7
Roaring Stream sections 1, 4, 6, 15, 17, 28

April 14
Roaring Stream sections 29, 31, 33, 37, 40, 41, 43

April 21
Source Book 34: Chu Hsi
Source Book 35: Wang Yang-Ming

April 28
Wang Yang-Ming continued (Moodle)

May 5
review and catch-up

Our final exam is scheduled for Tuesday May 10 at 2PM.

Attendance

You can have two unexcused absences without penalty. After that, your final grade will be docked the equivalent of +/- for each absence: for example, if you were running a "B" on assignments and so on, the fourth unexcused absence will make your final grade a 'B-'.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Dickinson College makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. I am available to discuss the implementation of those accommodations. Students requesting accommodations must first register with Disability Services to verify their eligibility. After documentation review, Marni Jones, Director of Learning Skills and Disability Services, will provide eligible students with accommodation letters for their professors. Students must obtain a new letter every semester and meet with each relevant professor prior to any accommodations being implemented. These meetings should occur during the first three weeks of the semester (except for unusual circumstances), and at least one week before any testing accommodations. Disability Services is located in Biddle House. Address inquiries to Stephanie Anderberg at [717-245-1734](tel:717-245-1734) or email disabilityservices@dickinson.edu. For more information, see the Disability Services website: www.dickinson.edu/disabilityservices

Expectations

I expect you to show up having read the assigned texts and thought about them a bit. I would like the class to be informal, and I solicit your participation throughout. Plagiarism will be dealt with harshly.