RELIGIOUS STUDIES 3316/ASIAN STUDIES 3350: Confucianism and Daoism

Instructor: Pamela Stover
Semester: Spring 2014
Day & Time: MW 4:30 – 5:50 p.m.
January 21 through May 8, 2014
CRN: RS 27734/ASIA 28123
Classroom: LART 305
Credits: 3
Office: Hudspeth 209
Office Hrs: By appointment.
Phone: 747-5702 (main office)
E-Mail: pgstover@utep.edu Please note that contact by UTEP email is the best way to reach me.

Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation - Roger T. Ames, Henry Rosemont.
Dao De Jing: Making this life significant - Roger T. Ames, David L. Hall.
Additional texts and/or articles may be required reading. Assigned films/clips shown in class are considered part of required material. A recommended text, not required Essential Mengzi: Selected Passages with Traditional Commentary - Bryan W. Van Norden.

Purpose: Daoism and Confucianism have formed the foundation for spiritual and philosophical thought in China for over two thousand years. Both Daoism and Confucianism spread to other countries and became greatly influential on other cultures in Asia including Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia. At present time, China is re-examining their long-standing tradition of Confucian values and has seen an increase in interest for Confucian based academies. This course will explore the connections between Daoism and Confucianism, their influence and significance in both history and contemporary times and their relevance to the world today. Primary focus will be on actual Daoist and Confucian texts and their interpretation along with commentary and expert interpretation of those texts. Course is designed to help the student understand and appreciate Asian philosophy and spiritual thinking through various texts, critical analysis, discussion and research. Students may research a specific related topic and present as final project.

Procedure: Students will examine, understand and analyze aspects of Confucian and Daoist philosophy and thinking utilizing translations of classical texts and commentary on those texts. Students will understand and apply knowledge to historic aspects of these teachings along with their application to contemporary issues. Students will examine and analyze relationships and interdependency of Confucianism and Daoism and their influence and impact on Asian and world civilization. Students will independently research an aspect of Asian classical texts and thinking to present to the class.

The course will focus on the assigned texts and may include other assigned articles. These texts will serve as the springboard for individual, small group, and whole class discussion and analysis. Students are also expected to read and analyze all assignments with a focus on examining how these texts and principles might or might not be relevant in contemporary society. Please read all assignments thoroughly and carefully, so that others can learn from your interpretations and you can learn from the interpretations of others through class discourse.

Learning Goals and Outcomes
With full participation, after completing this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate basic familiarity with foundation and texts of Daoism and Confucianism.
- Appreciate the relevance of these ancient texts to today’s society.
- Analyze the positive and negative contributions of Daoism and Confucianism to self-cultivation and the identification and understanding of other identities based on social class, gender, race, and sexual orientation.
- Evaluate and compare individual passages of the texts and apply them to contemporary society.
- Better understand Eastern cultures and people from those cultures in a way that is respectful and promotes mutual understanding.

With full participation, after completing this course, students will have improved their skills in:
• **Reading** – Students will become critical and careful readers of both primary and secondary source material and learn to synthesize what they are reading by responding to it in writing and in class discussion. *Liberal Arts Honors Criteria #2 Advanced Readings*

• **Writing** – Students will write reflective response papers, both in class and online, and will learn to develop and support an argument through their writing and incorporate the arguments and thoughts of others. *Liberal Arts Honors Criteria #3 Intensive Writing and #4 Intensive Research*

• **Critical thinking** – Students will be asked to critically evaluate texts, the perspectives articulated in those texts, and the assumptions underlying the arguments being made. Students should become comfortable with differences of opinion and confident in expressing their own point of view. *Liberal Arts Honors Criteria #9 Critical Thinking*

• **Campus and community engagement** – Students will be encouraged to participate in campus and community events related to the subject being studied. Students will be encouraged to participate in events organized by Religious Studies and its affiliated student organizations. *Liberal Arts Honors Criteria #6 Campus Resources and #7 Community Based Experiences*

• **Lifelong learning** – Students should feel motivated and confident in seeking out new and unfamiliar cultural experiences with the goal of learning more about themselves and their world.

**Grading Scale:**

- **A** = 450-500 points;
- **B** = 374-449 points;
- **C** = 273-373 points;
- **D** = 172-272 points;
- **F** = 171 points and below

**Assignments:**

- Your notes and short reflective papers or quizzes on each of the texts due the same evening the text is to be discussed in class. (10 papers and/or Blackboard discussions approx. 1000 words at 25 pts. each for a total of 250 pts.) Your notes, word count and bibliography must be included in each paper. *Papers are not a summary of the readings! Use your critical thinking to explore an issue or idea and expand.*

- Group projects and additional assignments. (75 points) Students may also be asked to attend talks or events outside regular class time.

- Research, Paper and Final Presentation. Students will individually analyze and present a current interest topic on Asia, choice approved by instructor. Students must sign up for their topic by mid-semester. (150 pts.)

- Class Participation/Class Discussion/Portfolio (considered with every book discussion) Please keep all notes, graded work and journals until the end of the semester. Your portfolio is part of your final grade. All work including notes from class lectures and readings, notes from presentations and journals will be kept in a 3-prong folder along with your reflections on films seen in class. You are encouraged to maintain a personal reading log of any other books or publications which will be considered for added credit. (25 pts)

**Attendance and Participation:** Active participation is essential. Lack of participation in class discussion or failure to read/analyze the assigned texts will result in a reduction of points from your papers. *Cell phones and computers will be turned off at the beginning of class. This includes no text messaging.* If you must eat in class, please limit your food to a small, quietly consumed snack. Because learning rarely happens in isolation, but from a sharing of ideas and experiences, *attendance at every class is mandatory.* Since emergencies do arise, two absences will be allowed without penalty; after two absences, you will lose 10 points for each class you miss, regardless of the reason. Students who miss a portion of the class will lose a commensurate number of points. These points will be deducted from the total accumulation of points you have earned by the end of the semester. If you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to contact a CLASSMATE, not the instructor, to get information on what was covered that day and copies of any papers that were passed out. It is assumed that since you signed up for this time slot, you are able to make the class in a timely manner. If you come to class late, points will be deducted from your assigned paper. Make-up papers will be allowed only with a documented excuse (i.e. medical emergency or military duty). Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class; those students entering class after roll call are counted tardy; each tardy counts as half an absence. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor at the end of class if you are tardy. Do not assume that I have noted your appearance after roll call is taken. *You do not need to contact me if you are going to be absent.* Students missing more than 20% of classes (6 classes) will be dropped.

**Plagiarism and theft of intellectual property:** If you use work from someone else and submit it as your own; if you use work from another source in your assignments and do not give direct credit to your source; or if someone with whom you are working writes/creates any part of the work for you, you are plagiarizing. Acts of plagiarism are acts of theft, and will be dealt with swiftly according to UTEP’s established policy. *Assignments will be submitted through SafeAssign or Turnitin on Blackboard to help you with appropriate citation.*
Assignments: All out-of-class assignments MUST be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font (10 pt. Arial), unless otherwise stated. In some cases I may request assignments be emailed to me. Emailed assignments should be sent as an attachment in Microsoft Word and saved as Rich Text Format. Save a copy of your assignments before you hand them in, as well as keep returned assignments until the end of the semester so you can keep abreast of your grade. Please ensure that you understand the requirements for the assignments before you begin, and give yourself ample time to complete them so that you can turn in your best work. Assignments are due at the beginning of class; those turned in to me after class will be counted as late. If you know you are going to be absent, give it to a classmate to turn in or turn it in early. Please note: Assignments that do not follow the given directions will not be given a passing grade. There are no “redo’s.” Late assignments will lose 5 points per day.

PLEASE REALIZE AT ALL TIMES THAT YOU ARE PREPARING TO ENTER A PROFESSIONAL CAREER. IN THIS CLASS, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO LEARN, BEHAVE, AND DRESS IN THE COURTEOUS, CONSCIENTIOUS, AND GENERALLY BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER CALLED FOR IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.

Extra Help: Students may see me by appointment. Help is also available at the UTEP Library Tutoring and Learning Center, Room 30, 747-5366.

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RS 3316/ASIA 3350: Confucianism and Daoism SYLLABUS CALENDAR

This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion to meet instructional needs and/or to accommodate time constraints. Bring this syllabus and your assigned text to class daily. Remember: readings are a springboard for your ideas and exploration. Feel free to explore other resources to better understand a topic or issue.

Assignments: The assignments are listed on their due date; the reflection paper/notes are due at the beginning of class on the day we discuss that book. Additional articles, films, and supplemental material may be required and are not listed on this schedule.

Text assignments:  
Intro to Classical Chinese Philosophy Van Norden – CCP  
Dao De Jing Ames/Hall – DAO  
Analects of Confucius Ames/Rosemont - KONG

Wk 1  Introduction to class and review of syllabus and policies. A look at classical texts and their importance. Discussion of expectations and final project.

Wk 2  CCP - Preface and Ch. 1(xi-15) Appendices A & B (223-247); DAO (ix-76) First reflective paper (1) discuss the terminology used in Chinese philosophical thinking and classical texts and how you understand it.

Feb 12  Last day to select P/F option.

Wk 3  CCP - Ch. 8 (121-139); DAO – (77-end) Second reflective paper (2) choose at least three passage in the Dao De Jing and discuss them. You may see a connection or it may be an exploration of matters difficult to understand.

Wk 4  (3) Respond to someone else’s chosen passages.

Wk 5  CCP Ch. (17-47), Appendix C ; KONG (ix-70) (4) Begin reading the Analects (KONG 71-end) and be finished before next week.

Wk 6  Assigned themes/aspects(5)

Wk 7  Assigned disciples (6)

Wk 8  Choose your topic for final project and write a general outline/explanation(7)

Mar 7 – 11 Spring break – no classes

Wk 9  CCP Ch. 6 Mengzi (83 – 100) and Ch. 10 Xunxi 163 – 183 (8) If you have access to the Mengzi text, now is the time to read that to enhance your understanding.

Wk 10  CCP Ch. 4 Mohists, Ch. 5 Yang Zhu (50-81) Ch.7 Later Mohists(101-119) (9)

April 1  Course Drop Deadline

Wk 11  Work on projects CCP Ch. Later Chinese Thought (201-222) (10)

Wk 12  Presentations

Wk 13  Presentations

Wk 14  Presentations Portfolios due

Wk 15  Presentations/Portfolios returned. May 8 will be our last class meeting. Your final project and portfolio count as your final. There will be no final exam during exam week.