Religious Studies 471
Heaven and Humanity in Confucian Thought and Practice

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Spring 2003
Wednesday, 7:30-10 p.m.
Ascension 114
Hours: M 3-4, TTh 2-4 and by appointment

This seminar will explore the philosophical and cultural history of the Confucian tradition, primarily in China, from its inception to the present day. Reading will include both primary texts and secondary studies covering the Five Classics and the sayings of Confucius and Mencius, the Neo-Confucians of the Sung and Ming dynasties, the "New Confucians" of the twentieth century. We will also examine the influences of Confucianism on Chinese and other East Asian societies, its involvement in the tension between tradition and modernity, and its influence on East Asian family dynamics and values. Among the general questions to be considered are: In what senses can Confucianism be considered a religious tradition? Which aspects of the tradition are culture-bound and which are universally applicable? How has Confucianism contributed to the growth (and more recent decline) of East Asian economies?

READING

Available in Bookstore:

Xinzhong Yao, An Introduction to Confucianism
Raymond Dawson, trans., The Analects
D.C. Lau, trans., Mencius

Philip J. Ivanhoe, Confucian Moral Self-Cultivation, 2nd ed.
Tu Wei-ming, ed., Confucian Traditions in East Asian Modernity: Moral Education and Economic Culture in Japan and the Four Mini-Dragons

Wm. Theodore de Bary and Tu Wei-ming, eds., Confucianism and Human Rights

On Course Reserve [CR]:

Classics
Richard John Lynn, tr., The Classic of Changes [I Ching]
Richard Wilhelm, tr., The I Ching, or Book of Changes
Arthur Waley, tr., The Book of Songs [Shih Ching]
James Legge, tr., The Shoo King [Shu Ching, or Book of Documents], in The Chinese Classics, v.3
James Legge, tr., The Li Ki [Li Chi, or Record of Ritual], in Sacred Books of the East, v. 27-28
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Participation (20% of grade). The seminar format requires regular attendance, completion of reading assignments, and active participation in discussion by all members, every week. Necessary absences must be cleared in advance with the instructor; unexcused absences will result in a grade penalty.

2. Four papers (20% each), 5-8 pages each, due in weeks 2, 4, 10, and the end of the semester.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

1 Jan 15

Overview of Confucian tradition

2 Jan 22

The Five Classics (Wujing / Wu-ching 五經)

Read:
- Schwartz, The World of Thought [CR]: ch. 2 "Early Chou Thought" (pp. 40-55). Optional: ch. 10 "The Five Classics" (pp. 383-406)

(The following are all on Course Reserve; read the one you are interested in.)
assigned and skim the rest):
- Wilhelm, *I Ching* [*Yijing*] 易經: pp. 3-15 (first two hexagrams), 262-272 (Discussion of Trigrams), 280-355 (Great Treatise)
- Legge, *Ch’un ts’ew* [*Chunqiu / Ch’un-ch’iu*] 春 秋: skim

Friday, Jan. 24: Paper 1 due

3 Jan 29

Confucius (Kongzi / K’ung-tzu 孔子) and the *Analects* (Lunyu / Lun-yü 論語)
- Learning the cultural tradition (*wen* 文) and reviving the Way (*dao* / *tao* 道) of the Sages
- Being humane (*ren* / *jen* 仁), ritually proper (*li* 禮), and appropriate (*yi* / *i* 義)
- A religious dimension?

Read:  
- Yao, ch. 1
- Bryan Van Norden, "Introduction" (pp. 3-12, 18-36), in *Confucius and the Analects* [CR]
- *The Analects*
- Ivanhoe, *Self-Cultivation*: Introduction, ch. 1
- Tu Wei-ming, "The Creative Tension Between *Jen* and *Li" and "*Li* as Process of Humanization," in *Humanity and Self-Cultivation* [CR]

4 Feb 5

Mencius (Mengzi / Meng Tzu 孟子)
- Human nature (*renxing* / *jen-hsing* 人性)

Read:  
- Ivanhoe, ch. 2
- Tu, "On the Mencian Perception of Moral Self-Development," in *Humanity and Self-Cultivation* [CR]
- de Bary and Tu, *Confucianism and Human Rights*, ch. 5 (Irene Bloom, "Mencius and Human Rights")

Friday, Feb. 7: Paper 2 due
5 Feb 12

Special guest: Kong Defang

Read:
- Yao, ch. 3
- de Bary and Tu, *Confucianism and Human Rights*, ch. 14 (Merle Goldman, "Confucian Influence on Intellectuals in the People’s Republic of China")

6 Feb 19

Xunzi / Hsün Tzu 荀子

The *Daxue / Ta-hsūeh* 大學 ("Great Learning")
The *Zhongyong / Chung-yung* 中庸 ("The Mean")

Read:
- de Bary and Bloom, *Sources*, pp. 159-183, 329-339
- Gardner, *Chu Hsi and the Ta-hsueh [CR]*, ch. 2 ("The Ta-hsueh before Chu Hsi," pp. 17-26)
- Ivanhoe, ch. 3
- Hall and Ames, *Thinking Through Confucius [CR]*, pp. 11-25

7 Feb 26

Han 漢 through Tang / T’ang 唐 Dynasties

- Dong Zhongshu / Tung Chung-shu 董仲舒
- The *Yijing / I Ching* 易經 (Classic of Change)
- The *Xiaojing / Hsiao Ching* 孝經 (Classic of Filiality)
- Women and Confucianism

Read:
- Yao, pp. 81-96
- Smith, et. al., *Sung Dynasty Uses of the I Ching*, pp. 3-25

<< Spring Vacation >>

7 Feb 26

Neo-Confucianism: The Northern Song / Sung 宋
9 Mar 26

**Neo-Confucianism: Southern Song 宋, Yuan 元, and Ming 明**

- **The Cheng-Zhu / Ch’eng-Chu School 程朱:**
  - Cheng Hao / Ch’eng Hao 程顥 and Cheng Yi / Ch’eng I 程顥: metaphysics of li 理 and qi / ch’i 氣
  - Zhu Xi / Chu Hsi 朱熹: architect of the Daoxue / Tao-hsüeh 道學 synthesis

- **The Lu-Wang 陸王 School:**
  - Lu Jiuyuan 陸九淵 and Wang Yangming 王陽明

Read:
- de Bary and Bloom, *Sources*, pp. 689-714, 720-751, 800-814, 837-840, 714-719, 831-851; 851-873 (read intros, skim texts)
- Ivanhoe, chs. 4-5

10 Apr 2

**Summing Up the Religious Dimensions**

Read:
- Yao, ch. 4
- Tu Wei-ming, "Neo-Confucian Religiosity and Human Relatedness,"
Friday, April 4: Paper 3 due

11 Apr 9

**Confucianism in Chinese Society**

Read:
- Yao, ch. 5
- Patricia Ebrey, "The Chinese Family and the Spread of Confucian Values," in Rozman, *The East Asian Region* [CR]
- Tu, *Confucian Traditions in East Asian Modernity*:
  - pp. 1-37 (de Bary, "Confucian Education in remodern East Asia")
  - pp. 228-243 (King, "State Confucianism and Its Transformations: The Restructuring of the State-Society Relation in Taiwan")

12 Apr 16

**Confucianism in Japanese and Korean Society**

Read:
- Tu, *Confucian Traditions in East Asian Modernity*:
  - pp. 113-131 (Watanabe, "‘They Are Almost the Same as the Ancient Three Dynasties’: The West as Seen through Confucian Eyes in Nineteenth-Century Japan")
  - pp. 132-154 (Yamashita, "Confucianism and the Japanese State, 1904-1945")
  - pp. 343-349 (Tu, "Epilogue")

13 Apr 23

**Confucianism and Human Rights**

Read:
- de Bary and Tu, *Confucianism and Human Rights*: Introduction, chs. 1-4

14 Apr 30

**Confucianism and Human Rights**

Read:
- de Bary and Tu, *Confucianism and Human Rights*, chs. 5, 15, and both Epilogues

Final Paper due: Saturday, May 10, 4:30 p.m.

Edit date: 1/21/03