

- [Links](#) for Confucianism
- [Selected handouts](#)
- [Pictures](#)
- **Syllabus:**

Religious Studies 471

Heaven and Humanity in Confucian Thought and Practice

Joseph Adler
Ascension 310
PBX 5290
E-mail: adlerj@kenyon.edu

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

James Legge, tr., *The Ch'un ts'ew* [*Ch'un Ch'iu*, or Spring and Autumn Annals], in *Chinese Classics*, v.5
Mary Lelia Makra, tr., *The Hsiao Ching* [Classic of Filial Piety]

Others

Bryan W. Van Norden, ed., *Confucius and the Analects: New Essays*

Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, eds., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 2nd ed., vol. 1

Patricia Buckley Ebrey and Peter N. Gregory, eds., *Religion and Society in T'ang and Sung China*

Daniel K. Gardner, *Chu Hsi and the Ta-hsueh: Neo-Confucian Reflection on the Confucian Canon*

Donald Hall and Roger Ames, *Thinking Through Confucius*

Gilbert Rozman, ed., *The East Asian Region: Confucian Heritage and Its Modern Adaptation*

Kidder Smith, Jr., Peter K. Bol, Joseph A. Adler, Don J. Wyatt, *Sung Dynasty Uses of the I Ching*

Benjamin I. Schwartz, *The World of Thought in Ancient China*

Rodney L. Taylor, *The Religious Dimensions of Confucianism*

Tu Wei-ming, *Humanity and Self-Cultivation: Essays in Confucian Thought*

Carsun Chang, *The Development of Neo-Confucian Thought*, 2 vols.

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.



The Confucian Temple (Kongzi miao) in Quzhou, China.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

1 Jan 15

Overview of Confucian tradition

2 Jan 22

The Five Classics (*Wujing* / *Wu-ching* 五經)

- Read:**
- Yao: Preface, Introduction, pp. 47-67
 - 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

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)
- Waley, *The Book of Songs* [Shijing / Shih-ching] 詩經 : pp. 226-280
- Legge, *Shoo King* [Shujing / Shu Ching] 書經 (following Prolegomena): pp. 1-75, 92-127, 141-151, 184-198, 213-219, 281-297, 300-305
- Legge, *Li Ki* [Liji / Li Chi] 禮紀, vol. 27: pp. 1-14, 61-90, 109-119, 120-132, 161-173; vol. 28: 29-39, 93-114, 173-185, 200-235, 428-434.
- 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-hsüeh* 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
 - de Bary and Bloom, *Sources*, pp. 283-285, 292-329, 344-346, 568-573, 582-585, 819-831
 - 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

- Zhou Dunyi / Chou Tun-i 周敦頤 : Taoism and the Yijing / I Ching
- Shao Yong / Shao Yung 邵雍: Numerology and the Sage
- Zhang Zai / Chang Tsai 張載 : Ethics based on *qi / ch'i* 氣
- Wang Anshi / Wang An-shih 王安石 and Ssu-ma Kuang / Sima Guang 司馬光: political reform and reaction

- Read:**
- Yao, pp. 98-138
 - de Bary and Bloom, *Sources*, pp. 587-666 (read intros, skim texts), 667-689 (read)



Zhou Dunyi

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 程頤: 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



朱熹

Zhu Xi

The Cheng brothers



10 Apr 2

Summing Up the Religious Dimensions

- Read:**
- Yao, ch. 4
 - Robert C. Neville, "Foreword," and Rodney L. Taylor, "The Sage as Saint" (ch. 3), in Taylor, *The Religious Dimensions of Confucianism* [CR]
 - Tu Wei-ming, "Neo-Confucian Religiosity and Human Relatedness,"

in Tu, *Confucian Thought: Selfhood as Creative Transformation*
[CR]

- Linda Walton, "Southern Sung Academies as Sacred Places," in Ebrey and Gregory, *Religion and Society in T'ang and Sung China*
[CR]

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. 187-188, 202-227 (Kim, "The Reproduction of Confucian Culture in Contemporary Korea: An Anthropological Study")
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.

