



# Asian Philosophy

Philosophy Department  
PHI 329, Fall, 2011,  
Old Main G24 10:20-11:10  
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Fitz-Gibbon

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Office Hours: Old Main 140-B, MW 2:30-4:00

## Course Description

Catalog Description: (O) Selected topics. May be taken more than once as subtitle changes. Prerequisites: Designated by department as appropriate for content and academic level of credit. (1-4 cr. hr.)

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- a) Conduct a thoughtful and respectful dialogue on important philosophical aspects of the ancient Chinese philosophies of Daoism, Confucianism and Buddhism.
- b) Synthesize and reflect upon primary sources and secondary texts in written and verbal form.
- c) Construct a reasoned philosophical argument.
- d) Challenge assumptions and unquestioned beliefs.
- e) Think more critically and reflectively about the differences between Eastern and Western ways of thinking.
- f) Apply the concepts and theories covered in the course to areas of contemporary importance.

## Required Texts

Wilhelm, Richard, *The I-Ching*, tr. Cary F. Baynes, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950, 1967.  
*The Book of Chuang Tzu*, Martin Palmer, tr., New York: Penguin, 1996.  
Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, D.C. Lau, tr., New York: Penguin, 1963.  
Confucius, *The Analects*, D. C. Lau, tr., New York: Penguin, 1979.

## Course Requirements

The course has a large discussion requirement, based on the required texts. Set reading and class participation are essential. Classes missed without prearrangement or a medical excuse will have negative consequences on final grade.

**Final grade will be based on the following:**

Class participation/attendance	10%
I-Jing Journal	40%
Term research paper 12-15 pages	50%

**Grade Distribution:**

A+ = 97-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69
A = 94-96	B = 84-86	C = 74-76	D = 64-66
A- = 90-93	B- = 80-83	C- = 70-73	D- = 60-63
			E = 0-59

**Term Paper:**

Term paper title Sep 12  
Term paper outline Oct 17  
Term paper draft Nov 14  
Term paper final last day of class, December 9

**I-Jing Journal:**

At least 3 readings of the I-Jing as instructed in class each week.  
Bring journal to office hours after 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 9 weeks and 12 weeks.

**Self-Reflection:**

1-page. Due last day of class with three elements:  
a) How many classes you have missed and why?  
b) Grade you would give yourself for participation  
c) 2-3 paragraphs on what you got out of the course

***The Syllabus***

Discussions in class are based on the readings. **The readings are essential**

**Reading the I-Jing every week**

**Week One**  
Confucius

**Week Two**  
Confucius

Labor Day: No Class Monday

**Week Three**  
Confucius

**Week Four**  
Confucius

**Week Five**  
Lao Tzu

**Week Six**  
Lao Tzu

**Week Seven**  
Lao Tzu

No Class: Fall Break Friday

**Week Eight**  
Lao Tzu

**Week Nine**  
**Chuang Tzu**

**Week Ten**  
**Chuang Tzu**

**Week Eleven**  
**Chuang Tzu**

**Week Twelve**  
**Chuang Tzu**

**Week Thirteen**  
**Chuang Tzu**

Thanksgiving Break Wed and Fri

**Week Fourteen**  
**Reading for term paper**

**Week Fifteen**  
**Reading for term paper**

Last Class Friday

## ***Policies and Information***

1. SUNY Cortland is committed to upholding and maintaining all aspects of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act 1973.

*If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact the office of Disability Services located in B-40 Van Hoesen Hall or call (607) 753-2066 for an appointment. Any information regarding your disability will remain confidential. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible. Any request for accommodations will be reviewed in a timely manner to determine their appropriateness to this setting.*

2. **Absolutely no late work will be accepted unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.** Such arrangements will be made only under unusual circumstances.

3. Plagiarism. All work submitted must be your own. Ideas borrowed from others, either directly, or through paraphrase, must be well documented through endnotes or footnotes. If plagiarism is suspected the student will be reported to the Provost and can either accept the charge or defend her or himself in the Grievance Tribunal.

4. If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what went on in class, whether any assignments were given, and for keeping up with your work.

### **SUNY Cortland Conceptual Framework**

The mission of teacher education at SUNY Cortland is to build upon the foundation of liberal learning in the development of teachers who have exceptional pedagogical knowledge and skills. The foundation of liberal learning informs the professional education strand in an innovative thematic approach that emphasizes personal responsibility, global understanding and social justice. Graduates of SUNY Cortland's teacher education program will be prepared to think critically, utilize technology, communicate effectively, understand and value diversity, contribute to their communities, and make a difference in the lives of their students.