

PHILO 219 Chinese Philosophy:

Professor Robert Mahony – Spring 2016

The class will read English translations of selected original sources from the Chinese tradition, which also influenced Japan and Korea. Students will critique assumptions about culture, language, logic, and philosophy expressed in the traditions of Confucius, Lao Tzu, and Buddha. Among other topics to be discussed in class are: The Chinese written language, early Chinese literature, the principle of T'ai-chi, and Philosophy (Western tradition). Guided by the instructor, the class may tour the art of East Asia at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on a Friday evening during the semester, demonstrations of meditation practices in Buddhism and Taoism, T'ai-chi ch'uan, and ch'i-kong.

Required Books (and *be sure that each book ISBN number is identical to that in the list below*):

1) Wing-tsit Chan, *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1963) ISBN 0691019649

2) Confucius, *The Analects*, trans. D.C. Lau (London: Penguin Books Ltd., 1979) ISBN 9780140443486

3) *Mencius*. Trans. D.C. Lau (London: Penguin Books Ltd., 1970, 2003) ISBN 9780140449716.

4) Chuang Tzu, *The Book of Chuang Tzu*, trans. Martin Palmer (London: Penguin Books Ltd., 2006) ISBN 9780140455373

REQUIREMENTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION

1) Weekly Essays based on readings assigned below under "Course Objectives and Content" will constitute 75% of final grade. In all, there will be 12 one-paragraph essays. Each essay will be written within 10 minutes at the beginning of class to show evidence of reading the assignment while also fostering a student's ability to relevantly treat the topic of each weekly essay. There are no make-up examinations unless there is written proof of serious illness or emergency.

2) One final, take-home, 4-page essay (not a term paper) composing 25% of the final grade explaining Philosophy in China. The instructor encourages students to submit early drafts for help and guidance in formal writing.