

ASIAN PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 104/RELS 104/ASIA 104/ANTH 104/FALL 2015

A_ THE COURSE BIO

Instructor:	Professor Chánh Công Phan Doctorate in Political Philosophy (University of Chicago 1986)
Office Location	Clark Hall 414M (4 th floor)
Telephone	(408) 924-4577
Faculty Email Address	Please send all your emails to the Instructor through the Canvas email system
Course Website Address	Please use URL: https://sjsu.instructure.com to gain access to the Canvas course website
Office Hours	MW 1200-1300 <> 1630-1700 and by appointment
Class Days <> Time	MW 1030-1145 (Section 01) and MW 1500-1615 (Section 03)
Classroom	DMH 208 (Section 01) and DMH 208 (Section 03)
Prerequisites	Completion of core SJSU courses and satisfaction of WST
GE/SJSU Studies Category	SJSU Studies Area V (Culture, Civilization, and Global Understanding)
Form of Preferred Contact	The <i>dao/đạo/do/dharma</i> of the teacher is to help one's students to learn and do well for the course. Office visitation (in person) is the preferred form of student-teacher interaction.

B_ FACULTY WEB PAGE AND CANVAS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Please use URL: <https://sjsu.instructure.com> to gain access to the Canvas course website. If you need help, call Canvas (Learning Management System) at **(408) 924-2337**.

C_ THE COURSE DESCRIPTION

In addition to the partial fulfillment of its three GELOs, the course attempts to pursue its SJSU comparative purpose: "Philosophical examination of Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and some other significant movements of thought originated in Asia in comparison with Western philosophy." In the pursuit of these objectives, the course will focus on the "*enlightenment*" and "*wisdom*" themes because they can be argued to be the philosophical ends of Eastern thinkers/philosophers through the ages in relation to the early Greek conception of philosophy as "the love of wisdom" (*philosophia*). With the focus on "wisdom" and "enlightenment" as the two main themes of PHIL 104, relevant fields of Western philosophy, selected Western doctrines of reality, textual hermeneutics, and dialectics will be used for critical and creative interpretations of selected texts of Buddhist philosophy <> Confucianist philosophy <> Daoist philosophy <> Hindu philosophy <> Yi Li 易理 Dịch Lý (Theory of Change).

C_ GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES (hereafter GELOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

GELO1: compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from different societies.

GELO2: discuss the historic contexts of ideas/cultural practices outside the United States and their influences upon the US culture.

GELO3: explain how a culture outside the United States has changed in response to internal and external pressures that it has faced.

The **GEAT** (GE Assessment Test) shall be used for the assessment of the **GELO1** during the academic year of 2015-2016.

D_ REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS

Lau, D. C. 1958. "The Treatment of Opposites in Lao Tzu 老子."

Download **Lau 1958** from the course website (Canvas Modules)

Phan, Chánh Công. 2007. "The Laozi Code."

Dao (September 2007), Volume 6, Issue 3, pp. 239-262.

Search for it on the King Databases and download it from therein.

Phan, Chánh Công, ed. 2002. *The Eastern Paths to Philosophical Self-Enlightenment*.

Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.

Supplementary Texts/Readings

The *Dao De Jing* or The *Tao Te Ching* 道德經 *Đạo Đức Kinh*

The Chan Translation @ <http://tereless.hu/english/tao/chan.html>

The Feng ⇄ English Translation @ <http://tereless.hu/english/tao/gia.html>

The Analects of Confucius Lun Yu 論語 *Luận Ngữ*

The James Legge Translation of the Analects @

http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/bl_text_confucius_analects.htm

The Lau Translation of the Analects @

<http://fudanphilosophyassociation.weebly.com/uploads/1/8/2/8/18280699/36541650-analects-the-sayings-of-confucius-translated-by-d-c-lau.pdf>

E_ COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

1. The First Midterm (EX1)	100 points (20%)
2. The Second Midterm (EX2)	100 points (20%)
3. The Final (EX3 [comprehensive])	100 points (20%)
4. The Philosophy Paper	100 points (20%)
5. The Class Participation	100 points (20%)

TOTAL **500 Points (100%)**

A- = 90-93%	A = 94-97%	A+ = 98-100%
B- = 80-82%	B = 83-86%	B+ = 87-89%
C- = 70-72%	C = 73-76%	C+ = 77-79%
D- = 60-62%	D = 63-66%	D+ = 67-69%
For grade improvement	See instructor early	F = 59% or less

F_ INCOMPLATE GRADE POLICY

All missing works for your incomplete grade must be submitted one month after the end of the semester. If your missing work(s) are not submitted within this grace period, your Incomplete will be replaced by the grade that appears on the Canvas Grades at the end of the semester.

G_ FACULTY WEB PAGE ON THE CANVAS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

To access all the course materials of this course PHIL 104 (like lectures, quizzes, examinations, and more), you must know how to use the Canvas Learning Management System by Instructure (<https://sjsu.instructure.com>).

Please observe the following **requirements** for your participation in Canvas:

- 1) You are required to post a passport-like **photograph** of yourself on your Canvas profile. This allows the Instructor to recognize you by face in connection to your name, concerns, coursework.
- 2) You are required to use only the **Canvas email system** to send your Instructor all your emails.
- 3) You are required to have a laptop or any other electronic device with its full Canvas-access functionalities if you want to take this class.
- 4) You are required to install the **Respondus Lockdown Browser (RLB)** to your computer or any other electronic device you use. Why? You need to use the RLB to take the Final Exam in class and to do some other online works in class.
- 5) **Test Make-Up** is not allowable except for emergency (to be documented and submitted).

H_ UNIVERSITY POLICIES

H.1_ Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity Policy is available at:

http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf.

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student and Ethical Development. The website for **Student Conduct and Ethical Development** is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

H.2_ Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability. The University Academic Integrity Statement: "Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>."

H.3_ U.S. Department of Education Policy

U.S. Department of Education document GEN-11-06 published on October 29, 2010 requires that the following language describing time spent outside of class be included in the syllabus:

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

I_ CLASS ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

Class attendance is very essential for the learning processes throughout the semester. Perfect attendance record is advised. **Three absences** (equal to one week and a half) due to emergency situations are allowed for the whole semester without affecting the class participation requirement. Classroom protocol is reflective of each student’s civility and academic professionalism. Will you be willing to observe the following ten precepts if you wish to demonstrate your classroom professionalism and help to enhance the classroom-learning environment?

- (01) I shall come to class on time.
- (02) I shall not eat in class¹.
- (03) I shall not sleep in class.
- (04) I shall not talk to my classmates.
- (05) I shall not do assignments for my other classes.
- (06) I shall not use my pager or cellular phone in class.
- (07) I shall not use my laptop for any non-114 activities.
- (08) I shall not pack up my things before the class is officially over.
- (09) I shall respect all my classmates and their beliefs, ideas, and ethnicities.
- (10) I shall not leave class early without having the instructor’s permission.

¹If you must eat in class, try to bring something “not overwhelmingly fragrant.”

“Tiên học lễ hậu học văn!”

(The first thing to learn is the rules of proper personal conduct and the second liberal studies!)
(The mantra of Vietnamese education)

K_ MANTRAS OF THE COURSE

Think Different!
One thing at a time!

L_ THE DISCLAIMER

“Students should understand that, due to the topic of Asian philosophy and religion, this course includes some content of a sexual nature. Every effort will be made by the professor to discuss such content in neutral terms and students similarly are asked to discuss such content in neutral terms.”

Course Schedule (Subject to change with advanced notice)

WK	DATE	Topic ⇨ Assignment ⇨ Reading ⇨ Watching
1	M/8/24	Getting to know PHIL 104 and each other. Read: “The Syllabus” + M2 (Guidelines for Active Class Participation [“M” stands for Canvas Modules])
	PART 1	BACKGROUND AND PHILOSOPHICAL METHODOLOGY
	W/08/26	A comparative analysis of Buddhism⇨Confucianism⇨Daoism⇨Hinduism and their historical contexts. Read: Phan 2002: ix-xii and 32-41 + M3.
2	M/08/31	What is philosophy? (A comparative analysis of Eastern views ⇨ Your view ⇨ Western views). Read: M4 + M5 (+ M4a + M6 + M7). Your Face Profile (FP) due with full credit (read M1a to follow the “Guidelines” to make your FP). Submit the FP hard copy to the Instructor in class and post your FP photo on the Canvas email photograph box (S/08/30/23:59 [23:59 = 11:59 pm]).
	W/09/02	What is thinking? (Eastern and Western views). Read: M8+Phan 2002: 59-83. Q1/S/09/05/23:59 (23:59 = 11:59 pm).
3	M/09/07	What is wisdom? Applications of Aristotelian view⇨Eastern views for analysis and interpretation of cases of practical wisdom. Read: M9 > M9b. Watch: M1.1 > M1.6 to interpret their wisdom themes. WE1 due.
	W/09/09	4 ways of philosophical methodology. Read: M10 + M11. Use this definition, (“ <i>To philosophize is to give meaning(s) or value(s) or both to that which is</i> ”), and “philosophize” about anything (that which is).
	PART 2	DOING EASTERN PHILOSOPHIES OF LIFE
4	M/09/14	A comparative inquiry into the philosophical parallels between the <i>I Ching (Book of Changes)</i> and the ancient Vietnamese bronze drums. Read: M22.
	W/09/16	Group/Class Discussions: <i>Why is academic dishonesty unacceptable?</i> Practical and philosophical views (Eastern⇨Western). Read: M13 + M14. Philosophy Paper (PP) Conference (time (from M/09/14 to M/09/28) to set up appointment to discuss your PP topic and read PP guidelines [P1 > P13]).
5	M/09/21	Early Hindu philosophy of life and ethics: An Upanishadic vision of the existentially spiritual life. Phan: 87-89⇨127-128. EX1/F/09/18/23:59.
	W/09/23	Think <i>philosophically</i> about late Hindu philosophy of life⇨ethics: The Manu vision of the existentially practical life. GR1/Phan: 90-98/129-131.
6	M/09/28	Think <i>philosophically</i> about Buddhist philosophy of life: The Buddha vision of a morally compassionate life. GR2/Phan: 60-61/100-106/140-143+M22.
	W/09/30	Think <i>philosophically</i> about Buddhist philosophy of life: The Dogen vision of the practical life of great people. GR3/Phan: 107-09/80-83. WE2 due.
7	M/10/05	Think <i>philosophically</i> about Confucianist vision of the political life in contrast to the Hindu ⇨ Vietnamese visions of political life. GR4/Phan: 115-123). SR (Supplementary Reading [Phan: 168-171/176-179]).
	W/10/07	Think <i>philosophically</i> about Daoist philosophy of life: The Zhuangian vision of an existentially free life. GR5/Phan: 111-114. SR (M14 + Phan: 76-79).
8	M/10/12	Think <i>philosophically</i> about the Vietnamese view of true friendship and make your philosophical response acc. to your view of true friendship. GR6/M15).
	W/10/14	Think <i>philosophically</i> about practices of romance⇨love⇨open marriage⇨ sex among non-Chinese minorities in southwest China. Watch: M1.7 + M1.3

WK	DATE	Topic < Assignment < Reading < Watching
9	M/10/19	Learning the dao of hermeneutically disciplined article writing: Dissecting the peer-reviewed Lau article. Read: M17. Q2 /T/10/13/23:59.
	W/10/21	Think <i>dialectically</i> about the Laoian view of opposites and how to deal with the problem of contradictions in life. GR7 /The <i>Dao De Jing</i> + M19 + M20.
	PART 3	EASTERN COSMOLOGIES AND ONTOLOGIES
10	M/10/26	Group/Class discussions: Buddhist < dialectical interpretations of the “Monkey Story.” W/R: M1.8>M1.10 + M19>M20. EX1/F/10/23/23:59 .
	W/10/28	Think <i>philosophically</i> about the origins of the cosmos and all things that are. Watch: “The Creation of the Universe” (a YouTube program of your choice).
11	M/11/02	Think <i>philosophically</i> about Hindu cosmogony and cosmology in relation to Confucianist < Daoist < Yi cosmogonies. GR8 /Phan: 189-200.
	W/11/04	Think <i>philosophically</i> about the cosmogonies in the <i>I Ching</i> and the <i>Dao De Jing</i> in relation to Hindu cosmological thoughts (Phan: 202-216) + M23.
12	M/11/09	Think <i>philosophically</i> about Confucianist theories of human nature and the question of internal control and external control (Phan: 241-251).
	W/11/11	The Confucian model of interpersonal conflict resolution and practical wisdom themes in the <i>Analects</i> . GR9 /M1.14+M1.15 (Lau/Legge trans).
13	M/11/16	Think <i>wisely</i> about the practical wisdom theme in the <i>Dao De Jing</i> . GR10 / M1.20>M1.22 (Chan<Feng-English translations) + Phan: 72-79/287-290.
	W/11/18	A comparative analysis of the enlightenment experiences of the Buddha < Lao Zi < Uddalaka < Plato (Pt1). GR11 /M1.20>M1.22 + Phan: 60-61/100-102 + 72-79/287-290 + 275-276 + M24 > M26 + M1.8 > M1.11. The Final Deadline to explore grade improvement options.
14	M/11/23	A comparative analysis of the enlightenment experiences of the Buddha < Lao Zi < Uddalaka < Plato (Pt2). GR12 /M1.20>M1.22 + Phan: 60-61/100-102 + 72-79/287-290 + 275-276 + M24 > M26 + M1.8 > M1.11.
	W/11/25	The <i>prajnaparamita</i> (enlightenment) experience of Avalokiteshvara and his new ontology in relation to enlightenment experiences of the Buddha < Lao Zi < Uddalaka < Plato. Phan: 275-276 + M26.
15	M/11/30	Think <i>dialectically</i> about Asian cultural<intellectual influences upon the US culture. Read: M29 + M30. Watch: M1.23.
	W/12/02	An interpretation of the Daoist < Laoian influences upon the making of US movie “Kung Fu Panda” (I) and the influences of “Kung Fu Panda” upon the USC. Watch: “Kung Fu Panda” (I) at home and make your interpretation.
16	M/12/07	Before the final act of philosophizing about this existential question: <i>Would a philosophically enlightened person admire or despise the other?</i>
	Final (EX3)	Class Time: 1030-1145 > Final Exam Time: T/12/15/15 > 0945-1200 Class Time: 1500-1615 > Final Exam Time: F/12/11/15 > 1215-1430