San José State University
Department of Philosophy
PHIL104 (ASIA104 / RELS104) / Section 4
ASIAN PHILOSOPHY
Fall 2015

Syllabus & Schedule

(2015-8-26 format)

Instructor:	Dr. Bo Mou
Office Location:	Faculty Office Building (FOB) 225
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Office Hours:	Due to online format of this class, there are no regular "in-office" office hours; you can raise your questions anytime online at the "discussion" sections (I will reply on scene if questions are raised during online sessions or whenever I check the class website). However, in case you do need a face-to-face meeting, you can stop by at my office during 3:30-4:30 pm, Wednesday or by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Online sessions to be held 7-9:45 pm Tuesdays at Canvas
Prerequisite:	Completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing. For those who begin continuous enrollment at a CCC or a CSU in Fall 2005 or later, completion of, or corequisite in a 100W course is required.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	*This course fulfills the following general education requirement: Area V of SJSU Studies (Culture, Civilization and Global Understanding). It is noted that courses to meet Areas R, S and V of SJSU Studies must be taken from three different departments, or distinct academic units.*

Course Format

On-line presentation and discussion. All class-related communications will be made online (via the class website and/or the email account) without requiring in-person meetings. Regular online class sessions will be held every Tuesday, 4-6:45 pm at the class website in Canvas. Though not required, you are highly expected to attend each of these regular online session on scene for the sake of (1) participating in the "live" learning process and (2) raising your questions to get responses (from me or classmates) on scene. In case you cannot make it to some of these online sessions, you can check their contents later as the online presentation and discussion are to be posted at the class website; you can still post your questions after each of the online sessions, though they will be replied later instead of immediately on scene.

During one regular online session, instead of repeating everything that appears in the class handout(s), which will be posted at the class website before the session, and the readings for the contents of that session, I will focus on: <1> emphasizing some major points/argumentation lines, <2> explaining some difficulty points, and <3> answering your questions (if any) which are raised on the scene of the session.

SJSU currently uses the online class learning software "Canvas". The class activities are to be carried out through the class website at http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus. Depending on need and situation (especially in

case there would be technical difficulties with "Canvas"), we might also use regular email accounts as a back-up means for communication.

Faculty Web Page
Course materials such as syllabus & schedule, course readers, class handouts, etc. can be found at the class website (via Canvas) in SJSU eCampus: http://www.sjsu.edu/eCampus.
The instructor's personal academic website is http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/bmou/

Course Description

This course presents a philosophical examination of some central ideas of *Yi-Jing* (*I Ching*) philosophy, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Buddhism and some other significant movements of thought in Asian philosophical traditions. There are three emphases in our examination. (1) We emphasize appreciation of distinctive ways of thinking and methodological approaches so as to develop a critical and balanced mind and to cultivate a capacity to look at things from a broad and dynamic perspective. (2) We emphasize appreciation of some representative ideas and visions in Asian philosophy and their historical and cultural contexts in which they changed and developed over time when facing internal and external challenges/pressures so as to achieve new visions and perspectives and to expand our understanding of the world and human life. (3) We take a comparative approach by which those Asian philosophical thoughts will be constructively compared with each other or with some thoughts in Western philosophy so as to appreciate how they can make joint contribution to our understanding and treatment of some philosophically important issues and concerns.

Learning Outcomes

As an Area V course in your General Education requirements, this course has **three GE Learning Objectives**:
Learning Objective 1 (LO1): *Students shall be able to compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.* To achieve this objective, the course takes a comparative approach, as emphasized in (3) above. Sample activities for mastering this GE LO include a series of comparative examinations of distinct approaches within Asian philosophy and from different (Asian and Western) philosophical traditions. Assessment tool for this learning objective includes <1> the paper assignment, <2> essay questions in the midterm and final exams.
Learning Objective 2 (LO2): *Students shall be able to identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture.* To achieve this objective, the course <1> pays due attention to the historical and cultural contexts in which the ideas and perspectives under examination have developed, as indicated in (2) above, and <2> discusses how Asian philosophical ideas and visions bear on Western and American philosophy via aforementioned comparative approach and American culture and society. Assessment tool for this learning objective includes evaluation of how the students understand those historical and cultural contexts via paper assignment and essay questions in the exams.
Learning Objective 3 (LO3): *Students shall be able to explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.* To achieve this objective, the course examines how some movements of thought under examination has changed in response to internal and/or external pressures (if any). Sample activities for mastering this GE LO include examinations of the development of Confucianism from Confucius to Mencius and Xun Zi's approaches, development of Buddhism from its early version to some of its more recent movements (such as *Chan*/*Zen* Buddhism). Assessment tool for this learning objective includes <1> paper assignment, <2> essay questions in the exams.

The course has four performance objectives: (1) to develop the ability to enter and appreciate ways of thinking and perspectives that may be quite different from what you have already had; (2) to achieve new visions and perspectives for dealing philosophically with the important issues and values in the contemporary multi-cultural world; (3) to enhance understanding of how Asian philosophical traditions bear on Asian-American cultural traditions and American culture and society; and (4) to improve the ability to read and think critically and creatively and to write clearly and effectively.

Required Texts/Readings:

- *Course Reader* [R]. [electronic files posted at the class website]
- Bo Mou: *Chinese Philosophy A-Z* (Edinburgh University Press, 2009/reprint with revision 2010) [CPAZ].
- Sue Hamilton: *Indian Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2001) [IP]

Course Requirements and Assignments

(1)	Online Class Participation	5%
	participation in discussion in online sessions: (1) raising questions that show your carefully <1> reading the class textbooks and reading assignments and/or <2> thinking about the issues under examination; (2) contributing to the online session discussion)	
(2)	Midterm Exam	30% (10/13)
(3)	Term Paper	30%
	<1> First version for feedback	[20%; due 11/20]
	<2> Final version	[10%; due 12/11]
(4)	Final Exam	35% (12/17)

Grading Policy

Normal grade rules. The final grade will be based on a computation of all of your grades and on the following scale:

A+	(98 - 100);	B+	(87 - 89);	C+	(77 - 79);	D+	(67 - 69);	F = 0 - 59.	
A	(94 - 97);	B	(84 - 86);	**C**	**(74 - 76);**	D	(64 - 66);		
A-	(93 – 90);	B-	(80 - 83);	C-	(70 - 73);	D-	(60 - 63);		

Completing this GE Area with a grade of C or better is a graduation requirement.

Writings

Advanced General Education courses require a minimum of 3000 words of writing, including in-class and out-of-class assignments. Each student is thus required to write: (1) one term paper (total 6 typewritten double-spaced full pages with 1 inch margin and font size 12 with about 300 words each page): the first version is to have about 1800 words; an additional 500-1000 will come from the revision of the first version of the term paper. (2) in-class writings for the midterm and final exams (about 1200 words total).

Term paper

- This is the main philosophical writing of each student. To have students receive feedback, the term paper assignment consists of its first version (20%; due 11/20 midnight/23:59) and its final version (10%, due 12/11 midnight/23:59): you will get feedback via my comments on your first version to improve your paper. The topic will be assigned around three weeks before the due date of the first version.
- The paper should show use of library resources through making *at least two* explicit citations in the text and giving their full references in endnotes. [Note: the 'library resources' means research books (not

source books, such as English translations of Asian classical texts) or journal articles to which the library subscripted; our class textbook does not count as one, and the cited article from the supplementary readings counts only as one of the (at least two) citations of such a kind.] It should be around 6 full pages (typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font with size 12, margin 1 inch – thus around 300 words each full page).

- **For how to write philosophy papers**, see "Some Suggestions for Writing Philosophy Papers" in *Course Reader*.
- Both first and final versions of the term paper (MS Word files) are submitted in electronic file by the due time via the "Dropbox" at the class website.
- **Writing should maintain *academic honesty***: Plagiarism is wrong. Never turn in another person's work as your own and never present material taken directly from a book, journal or the Internet without putting quote marks around it and giving an endnote crediting the author.
- **Late papers**: the first version of your term paper that is late but submitted by/on 11/30 (M) will be demoted by 50% of the total credit points for it (20 points); otherwise, the credit point for the first version is zero. Late submission of the final version of your term paper (due 12/11 midnight) will not be accepted unless there is justified emergency situation.

Readings

Before taking each class session, you are expected to complete the readings assigned for that session, which might consist of four types of readings: (1) source text(s), (2) supplementary reading(s), (3) relevant part(s) of the textbook, and (4) handout(s); for the sake of your understanding, you might start with (4) and (3), then (2) and (1) if any.

Exams

- Exams will combine true-false/multiple choice questions and essay questions. The exams are open-book ones; but each student is required to complete them independently (without consulting others by any means) within the specified timelines. The instructor will supply a study guide around one week ahead of the exams.
- With your commitment to meeting the online-class by-default expectations when registering this online class, it is the students' responsibility to have computer with internet/email connection available and ready during the exam timelines (Midterm: 10/13, 7-9 pm; Final Exam: 12/17, 7:45-10 pm).
- Students who have justified emergency situations need to submit relevant evidence (e.g., a doctor's note) to schedule a make-up exam.

Academic Integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

PHIL 104 Section 4 "ASIAN PHILOSOPHY" / Fall 2015
COURSE SCHEDULE

(2015-8-26 format)

Dates	Contents	Reading Assignments
8/25 (T) 7-9:45 pm	Introduction; Philosophy and Asian Philosophy; Methodological Issues	CPAZ: "philosophy", "Chinese philosophy", "methodology", "constructive engagement"; Handout 1
Topic 1: The *Yi-Jing* (*I Ching*) Philosophy		
9/1 (T) 7-9:45 pm	(1) An Introduction to the *Yi-Jing* Text; The *Yin-Yang* Metaphysical Vision; (2) A Comparative Examination of the *Yin-Yang* Model and the Hegelian Model of Interaction and Transformation	(1) R: Readings 1 and 2; CPAZ: "*yi* (易)", "*Yi-Jing*", "*yin-yang*", "yin-yang metaphysical vision", "*yin-yang* way of thinking"; Handout 2 (2) R: Readings 3 and 4; CPAZ: "*yin-yang* way of thinking (yin-yang model of interaction and transformation)"; Handout 3
Topic 2: Classical Confucianism (Confucius, Mencius, and Xun Zi) and Its Challenges		
9/8 (T) 7-9:45 pm	(1) An Introduction to Confucianism; Confucius on *Ren* (*Jen*) and Moral Cultivation; (2) Comparative Examination of Confucius' and Socrates' approaches in Dialogue	(1) R: Reading 5 - selections from *Analects*: those passages cited in Handouts 4&5 and related ones; CPAZ: "Confucianism", "classical Confucianism", "Confucius", "*Lun-Yü*", "humanism", "*jun-zi*", "*ren*", "self-cultivation", "*li*", "*yi* (義)", "*he* ", "*tian-ren-he-yi*"; Handouts 4&5. (2) R: Reading 5 (*Analects* 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8) and Reading 6 ("Euthyphro"); CPAZ: "being vs. becoming", "methodology"; Handout 6
9/15 (T) 7-9:45 pm	(1) Confucius' and Christian Versions of the Golden Rule (2) Classical Confucianism: further development <1> Mencius on Human Nature/Cultivation <2> Xun Zi on Human Nature/Cultivation	(1) R: Reading 5 (those cited passages in Handout 7) and Reading 7; CPAZ: "Golden Rule", "*ren*", "*shu*", "*zhong*"; Handout 7 (2) R: Readings 8 & 9 (at least those cited passages in Handouts 8&9); CPAZ: "classical Confucianism", "Mencius", "*Mencius*", ", "Xun Zi", "*Xun-Zi*", "human (moral) nature", "self-cultivation"; Handouts 8 and 9
9/22 (T) 7-9:45 pm	Challenges to Classical Confucianism: (1) Mohist Challenge: Utilitarianism; (2) Yang Zhu's Challenge: Early Daoism	(1) R: Reading 10; CPAZ: "Mo Zi", "*Mo-Zi*", "Mohism", "utilitarianism"; (2) R: Reading 11; CPAZ: "Yang Zhu", "Yangism"; "Daosim", "Egoism"; Handout 10
9/29 (T) 7-9:45 pm	Challenges on issue of language and logic: (1) School of Names (2) Later Mohist approach to reasoning	R: Reading 12; CPAZ: "School of Names", "Gong-sun Long", " 'White-Horse-Not-Horse'' thesis", "Hui Shi", "Hui Shi's Ten Propositions"; Handouts 11
10/6 (T) 7-9 pm	Review for Midterm	Study Guide for Midterm Exam
10/13 (T) 7 pm – 9 pm	**Midterm Exam (online)**	Note: start online exam at 7 pm sharp and make the exam submissions by 9 pm.

Topic 3: Classical Daoism: Lao Zi and Zhuang Zi		
10/20 (T) 7-9:45 pm	Lao Zi's approach in *Dao-De-Jing*: (1) Metaphysical *Dao* (2) *De* and Morality; *Wu-Wei*	R: Readings 13-1and13-2 (Dao-De-Jing; at least those chapters cited in Handouts 12&13); (1) CPAZ: "Lao Zi", "*Dao-De-Jing*", "Daoism", "*dao*"; Handout 12 (2) CPAZ: "*de*", "virtue", "*wu-wei*", "nature"; Handout 13
10/27 (T) 7-9:45 pm	Zhuang Z's Approach in the *Zhuang-Zi*: (1) Zhuang Zi's Method and Metaphysical View; (2) On Happiness	(1) R: Reading 15 (Zhuang-Zi selections – Ch.2 "On Equality" pp.180-190); CPAZ: "Zhuang Zi"/"Zhuang-Zi", "Daoism", "perspectivism"; Handout 14 (2) R: Reading 15 (pp.209, 195-6); CPAZ: "*wu-wei*", "self-freedom"; Handout 15
Topic 4: Hinduism		
11/3 (T) 7–9:45 pm	(1) About Indian philosophy (2) Hinduism: Pre-Systematic Period Hinduism: Systematic Period	(1) IP: Chs.1: Handout 16; (2) IP: Chs.2: Handout 17
11/10 (T) 7–9:45 pm	(1) Hinduism: Systematic Period (2) A comparative examination of Sankara's, Plato's and Lao Z's approaches	IP: Chs.4, 5, 7, 8; Handout 18 Previous relevant handouts
Topic 5: Buddhism		
11/17 (T) 7–9:45 pm	(1) The Essence of Buddhist Thought (2) Buddhist School of Middle Way on Double Truth;	(1) IP: Ch.3; CPAZ: "Buddhism", "Buddha", "Buddhist *karma* and *samsara*"; "*Mahayana* Buddhism", "Three-Treatise Buddhism", Handout 19 (2) IP: Ch.6; R: Reading 16; CPAZ: "*er-di-lun* ", "Ji, Zang"; Handouts 20;
11/20 (F)	**First version of term paper due by midnight (11:59 pm)**	
11/24 (T) 7–9:45 pm	*Chan*/*Zen* Buddhism	R: Reading 17; Handout 21
Topic 6: Some Methodological Issues in Studying Asian Philosophy		
12/1 (T) 7–9:45 pm	Some methodological issues in studies of Asian and comparative philosophy: maintaining adequate methodological guiding principles	R: Reading 18 (parts 1 and 3); CPAZ: "methodology", "constructive engagement", "comparative philosophy"
Final Work		
12/8 (T) 7–9 pm	Review for Final Exam	Study Guide for Final Exam
12/11 (F)	**Final version of term paper due by midnight (11:59 pm)**	
12/17 (Thursday) 7:45 pm – 10 pm	**Final Exam (online)**	Note: start online exam at 7:45 pm sharp and make the exam submissions by 10 pm.
Note: The above schedule is for guidance only and may change in the event of extenuating circumstances.		