

## Ewha International Summer College 2019

### Introduction to Eastern Philosophy

**Instructor:** Joseph Harroff, PhD

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**Location and Time:** TBA



#### **Course Description:**

This course will aim to familiarize students with some representative thinkers, texts and themes in three of the most central philosophical traditions of East Asia—Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism.

#### **Required Texts:**

1) *Mencius*, translated by Irene Bloom and edited by Philip Ivanhoe, (Columbia University Press, 2009), ISBN 978-0-231-12205-4

2) *Daodejing—“Making this Life Significant”: A Philosophical Translation*, trans. and ed. Roger T. Ames and David L. Hall, (Ballantine Books, 2003); ISBN 0-345-44419-1

3) *Zen Sourcebook: Traditional Documents from China, Korea, and Japan*, ed. Stephen Addiss, et. al. (Hackett, 2008); ISBN-13: 978-087220-909-1

4) Additional Materials will be made available via a course reader.

## **Course Assessments:**

**Attendance and Participation (30%)**- Attendance will be noted and each unexcused absence will result in a 5% grade reduction. Active participation is required for deep philosophical learning so in addition to doing the assigned readings students need to come prepared to each class ready to critically reflect upon and collaboratively discuss the material. As a means of encouraging such active participation and creative learning students should compose at least one pointed discussion question derived from the assigned reading material to bring with them to each class.

**Reflection Responses (30%)**- Three in-class reflections (mix of short answer and short essay) will provide students an opportunity to critically reflect upon the material we cover from each of the three philosophical traditions (Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism).

**Presentation (20%)**- The last two classes are devoted to student presentations showcasing their research and getting feedback to improve their essay.

**Essay (20%)**- 1,500-2000 word research essay due by July 23rd. Students will write a creative philosophical essay. In addition to the course content, students will be expected to make reference to at least two peer-reviewed journal articles—for example from *Philosophy East and West*, *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, etc.—in developing their own position vis-a-vis a topic or problem that they are writing about.

## **Course Schedule:**

### **Week 1-Introduction to Course**

6/27- Introductions

### **Week 2- Confucianism**

7/1- *The Great Learning* and *Analects* [selections]

7/2- *Mengzi*

7/3- *Mengzi* and I.A. Richards' *Mencius on the Mind* [selections]

7/4- *Mengzi* and *Zhongyong* [selections] [Response #1]

### **Week 3- Daoism**

7/8- *Daodejing*

7/9- *Daodejing*

7/10- *Daodejing* and *Zhuangzi* [selections]

7/11- *Daodejing* and *Zhuangzi* [selections] [Response #2]

### **Week 4- Buddhism**

7/15- *Zen Sourcebook* (TBA)

7/16- *Zen Sourcebook* (TBA)

7/17- *Zen Sourcebook* (TBA)

7/18- *Zen Sourcebook* (TBA) [Response #3]

**Week 5- Presentations**

7/22- Student Presentations

7/23- Student Presentations [Research Essay Due]

\*\*This syllabus is subject to change contingent upon course flow and student learning needs.