

Sample Syllabus for a 13-week Course on Later Chinese Thought

Required Textbook:

- Justin Tiwald and Bryan Van Norden, eds., *Readings in Later Chinese Philosophy* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2014). (All “Required Readings” are from this text.)

Recommended Textbooks:

- Harold M. Tanner, *China: A History* (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2009).

Week 1: The Original Orthodoxy: Han Confucianism

Required Readings:

- “Han Thought,” in *Readings in Later Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 1-9.
- Dong Zhongshu, “An In-Depth Examination into Names and Designations,” “The Way of the King Links Up the Three,” “The Necessity for Benevolence and Wisdom”
- Yang Xiong, “Putting Learning into Practice”
- Wang Fu, “Acculturation through Virtue”

Recommended Readings:

- Tanner, *China*, Part I, pp. 3-131.

Week 2: Cosmology and the Introduction of Buddhism

Required Readings:

- Selections on *Qi*, on *Yin* and *Yang*, and on the Five Phases
- “Great Appendix” and “Explanations of the Trigrams,” from the *Changes*
- “Chinese Buddhism,” in *Readings in Later Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 69-74.
- Huiyuan, *On Why Buddhist Monks Do Not Bow Down before Kings*, pp. 75-80.

Recommended Readings:

- Wang Bi, “Outline Introduction to the *Laozi*,” from Richard John Lynn, trans., *The Classic of the Way and Virtue* (New York: Columbia University Press), pp. 30-47.

Week 3: Huayan Buddhism

Required Readings:

- Zongmi, “On Humanity”
- Fazang, “The Rafter Dialogue,”
- Fazang, “Essay on the Golden Lion”

Recommended Readings:

- Tanner, *China*, Chapters 5-6 of Part II, pp. 135-200.

Week 4: Chan (Zen) Buddhism

Required Readings:

- Huineng, "Platform Sutra"
- Selected Koans

Recommended Readings:

- *Principles and Practices of Zen* (Princeton: Films for the Humanities, 1992), video (available on youtube.com).

Week 5: The Rise of Neo-Confucianism

Required Readings:

- "Neo-Confucianism," in *Readings in Later Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 112-122.
- Han Yu, "A Memorandum on a Bone of the Buddha," "On the Way," "On Reading Xunzi," and "On Human Nature"
- Lu Xiangshan, "Letter to Wang Shunbo"
- Zhang Zai, "The Western Inscription"
- Cheng Yi, "Reply to Yang Shi's Letter on 'The Western Inscription' "
- Re-read "Great Appendix" (especially sections I.5, I.11, and I.12) and "Explanation of the Trigrams," from the *Changes*
- Zhou Dunyi, "Explanation of the Diagram of the Great Ultimate"

Recommended Readings:

- Tanner, *China*, Chapters 7-8 of Part II, pp. 201-77.

Week 6: The Cheng Brothers

Required Readings

- Cheng Hao, "On Understanding Benevolence," "Letter on Calming the Nature," and Selected Sayings.
- Cheng Yi, "What Kind of Learning Was It that Yanzi Loved?" "Remembrance of Taking Care of Fish," and Selected Sayings.

Week 7: Zhu Xi on Metaphysics and Ethics

Required Readings:

- Zhu Xi, *Categorized Conversations*

Week 8: Zhu Xi and the New Orthodoxy

Required Readings:

- Zhu Xi, *Collected Commentaries on the Great Learning, Collected Commentaries on the Analects, Collected Commentaries on the Mengzi, and Collected Commentaries on the Mean.*

Recommended Readings:

- David S. Nivison, "Protest against Conventions and Conventions of Protest" in Arthur Wright, ed., *The Confucian Persuasion* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1960), pp. 177-201.

Week 9: Critiques of Zhu Xi

Required Readings:

- Lu Xiangshan, "Correspondence on the Great Ultimate," *Short Meditations and Poetry, Recorded Sayings, "Letter to Zeng Zhaizhi"*
- Wang Yangming, "Questions on the *Great Learning*"

Week 10: Wang Yangming

Required Readings:

- Wang Yangming, *A Record for Practice,*
- Wang Yangming, *Miscellaneous Writings*
- Li Zhi, "On the Child-like Mind"

Recommended Readings:

- Tanner, *China*, Chapters 9-10 of Part III, pp. 281-339.
- B.W. Van Norden, "Wang Yangming," *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2014 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2014/entries/wang-yangming/>.

Week 11: Women and Gender in Chinese Thought

Required Readings:

- Ban Zhao, *Lessons for Women*
- Liu Xiang, "Mengzi's Mother"
- Cheng Yi, "Biographies of My Parents"
- Zhu Xi, "The Way of the Family"
- Luo Rufang, "Essay on the Hall of Motherly Affection and Chaste Widowhood at Linchuan, Jiangxi"
- Li Zhi, "A Letter in Response to the Claim that Women Cannot Understand the Way Because They Are Shortsighted"

Week 12: Late Imperial Confucianism

Required Readings:

- “Late Imperial Confucianism,” in *Readings in Later Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 308-14.
- Huang Zongxi, “On Law”
- Dai Zhen, Selections from *An Evidential Commentary on the Meanings of Terms in the Mengzi*
- Re-read Han Yu, “On the Way”
- Zhang Xuecheng, “On the Way”

Recommended Readings:

- Tanner, *China*, chapters 11-12 of Part III, pp. 340-415.

Week 13: Has Confucianism a Future?

Required Readings:

- “The Twentieth Century,” in *Readings in Later Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 352-58.
- Hu Shih, “The Civilizations of the East and the West,”
- Li Dazhao, “Women’s Liberation and Democracy,”
- Liu Shaoqi, *On the Ethical Cultivation of Communist Party Members* and “Self-Criticism,”
- Mou Zongsan et al., “Manifesto on behalf of Chinese Culture,” http://www.hackettpublishing.com/mou_zongsan_manifesto
- Mou Zongsan, “Appearances and Things-in-Themselves,” and “The Principles of Authority and Governance,”

Recommended Readings:

- Harold M. Tanner, *China: A History*, Part IV, pp. 419-583.
- David S. Nivison, “Communist Ethics and Chinese Tradition,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 16:1 (1956): 51-74.