

Office: UW Fox, 1512
Office Hours: Mo-Fr 10:30-11:20 am and by appt.
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- **Students are responsible for reading this syllabus thoroughly and asking if they have any questions.**
- **Everything on this syllabus is tentative and subject to change with notice.**

Course Description: An exploration of key intellectual traditions of China such as Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism, and Legalism, with a focus on their philosophical themes and arguments. Attention will be paid to classic primary sources such as the *Analects* and *Daodejing*, as well as the historical and cultural context of these texts and traditions. This course carries the Explore Culture (“Students explore human thought, its intellectual foundations, and / or creative expression in courses in the Humanities and the Fine and Performing Arts Divisions”) designation.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, students should be able to

- Demonstrate an understanding of several important Chinese philosophical traditions;
- Identify, explain, and critically evaluate the relevant philosophical themes and arguments;
- Make connections between the philosophical ideas and their historical and cultural context;
- Critically compare and contrast ideas from Chinese philosophy with Western thought, past and present

Grading Breakdown:

Participation:	20%
Tests:	60% (3@20% each)
Final Paper:	20%

Participation. Participation is worth 20% of your final grade. This is earned by participating in class on a regular basis, as appropriate (e.g., do contribute to class discussions, do not monopolize discussions or interrupt when other people are speaking). Participation is usually verbal, but there may also be some in-class writing, pop quizzes, etc., as needed. Behavior that is distracting, disruptive, or disrespectful (to me or your fellow students) will have a serious negative impact on your participation grade (and may even constitute academic misconduct). Participation must also be substantive and on topic; this is not possible without preparation, so be sure to complete all required reading assignments before class. Although attendance is not part of your grade *per se*, it is obviously a prerequisite for participation (you can't earn participation credit if you aren't in class, no matter how good the reason for your absence); to that end, I will take attendance at the beginning of each class, as just one thing that I take into consideration as I assign participation grades. If you arrive to class after I have taken attendance, it is your responsibility to let me know immediately after class so that I may mark you present. Arriving to class late, leaving early, or leaving and re-entering the room during class will, at my discretion, also negatively impact your participation grade. It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed during any absences by checking Canvas; do not email me to ask what you missed (though, after checking Canvas, you may of course email if you have further questions or require any clarifications). Also, I neither require nor particularly desire explanations of absences or tardiness, etc., unless I specifically ask; the obvious exception is if you are absent on a day when there is an exam or an assignment due (then you should contact me about your options, if any). Please note that office hours are not a make-up class: if you miss class, it is your responsibility to catch yourself up by doing the readings, getting the notes, etc. (I will happily help you in office hours after you have done that, but I will not re-teach the material).

Tests. There are three tests, each weighted at 20% of your final grade, totaling 60% of your final grade. These are traditional in-class, closed-book / closed-notebook exams. Study guides will be handed out in advance. Tentative dates are 10/4, 11/3, and 12/8. If a test day is cancelled, assume it will be the following class.

Term Paper. The term paper is worth 20% of your final grade. Directions will be handed out in advance. The due date is 12/15 at 11:30 a.m. (i.e., the start of the final class period).

Grading Scale: Your total percentage determines your letter grade. A = 93 or greater, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62, F = 59 or less. For a general idea of standards, A = excellent, B = good, C = fair, D = poor, F = failing. Your grades are recorded on Canvas; it is your responsibility to keep an eye on them and your overall performance in the class.

Text: *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy* (ISBN 9781603844680). (I will also share excerpts from *Readings in Later Chinese Philosophy* (ISBN 9781624661907) via Canvas, but you are not required to buy it.)

Course Outline: The following is an extremely approximate and tentative outline of course topics, mostly to meet syllabus requirements, but also to provide some information about course content. I do not have a day-by-day calendar of readings; every semester is different. Instead, I will simply announce each class what you should read for the next one, based on how far we've gotten that day. These reading assignments will also be posted on Canvas each day promptly after class in case you are absent and need to know what to read.

Week 1: Introduction and Historical Context

Week 2: Kongzi and Confucianism

Week 3: Kongzi and Virtue Ethics

Week 4: Mohist Consequentialism

Week 5: Yang Zhu and Egoism

Week 6: Mengzi and Human Nature

Week 7: Language and the "School of Names"

Week 8: The *Daodejing* and Mysticism

Week 9: Zhuangzi's Skepticism and Relativism

Week 10: Xunzi's Confucian Naturalism

Week 11: Han Feizi and Legalism

Week 12: Later Chinese Thought

Week 13: Later Chinese Thought (continued)

Week 14: Concluding Thoughts

The University Studies Program, Explore Courses, and Liberal Education: The University Studies Program (USP) is UW Oshkosh's general education program. All American universities have a general education program. The name University Studies Program has been chosen for UW Oshkosh general education to convey that this program is intentionally designed to support high impact practices and inclusive excellence. Some of its unique features are small, first-year-experience classes, the community engagement experience that second-year students do, and the three "signature questions" that are woven throughout USP courses. This has all been achieved without adding credits to graduation. The USP was based on proven High Impact Practices in higher education, as well as the Essential Learning Outcomes that UW Oshkosh wants every student to have learned by graduation. Explore courses make up the majority of a student's coursework in the USP. Many aspects of the USP are useful to your Explore course instruction. These include an emphasis on essential learning outcomes, the liberal arts, high-impact practices, and information literacy.

Early Alert Program: Early in the semester, you will receive a grade for your overall progress in this course and each of the courses you are taking in your first semester. This process is called "Early Alert." The registrar's office will send you an email during the fifth week of classes reporting on academic performance for each of your classes. Early Alert is designed to help you evaluate your class performance so that you know if you are on the right track. If you need to make some changes, there are resources available to support your academic success. These Early Alert grades are not permanent and will not appear on your transcript. (To confirm, clearly: I will be participating in the Early Alert process for this class.)

Miscellaneous Notices, Policies, Etc.:

- If you require considerations of which I may not be aware (with regard to learning disabilities that require testing accommodations, observance of religious holidays which conflict with exams, etc.), you must notify me well in advance, before possible conflicts might occur. Certain accommodations, especially with regard to testing, will not be given unless the appropriate accommodation arrangements have been made.
- Late assignments, exams, etc. may be penalized, if accepted at all.
- It is your responsibility to be familiar with University policies regarding academic responsibilities, integrity, and misconduct; see UWS rules chapter 14: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/14.pdf
- Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>

Additional Resources:

- Accessibility Center: <https://uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/accessibility-center/>
- Canvas Students' Beginner's Guide: <https://kb.uwosh.edu/92238>
- Counseling Center: <https://uwosh.edu/counseling/>
- Fox Campus Solution Center: <https://uwosh.edu/fox/resources/solution-center/>
- Libraries: <https://www.uwosh.edu/library>
- Safety, Privacy, Emergency and Wellness Resources: <https://uwosh.edu/fox/resources/safety/>
- Technology Support: <https://uwosh.edu/fox/resources/tech-support/>
- Tutoring Services: <https://uwosh.edu/fox/academics/tutoring/>
- Veterans Resource Center: <https://uwosh.edu/fox/resources/veterans/>