



POLITICAL SCIENCE 113B
CHINESE AND JAPANESE POLITICAL THOUGHT (I)
University of California, San Diego
Section 925305
Dr. G. A. Hoston
Winter 2018

Class Meetings: Monday. 5:00-7:50 p.m.
Warren Lecture Hall 2207

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Tel: 858-449-0455

Office Hours: Tu 3:00-4:30 p.m.
and by appointment

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Group E-Mail: poli113b-2018@yahoogroups.com

Class Website: <https://groups.yahoo.com/group/poli113b-2018>

To subscribe to course website, send email from your primary email address to: poli113b2018-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

This course is the first part of a two-part series that offers an intensive examination of major strands of Chinese and Japanese political thought from antiquity to the mid-twentieth century. (It is not necessary to take both parts of the sequence.) You will have the opportunity to read original writings of Chinese and Japanese philosophers (in translation). We will be comparing and contrasting the views of Chinese and Japanese philosophers with perspectives of other leading ancient and modern Western and non-Western thinkers. Special emphasis will be placed on how the views of Chinese and Japanese thinkers responded to changing conditions within and outside their own societies, and on how the ideas themselves changed as they moved from one historical and social context to another.

The course will be conducted in a combination lecture-discussion format. This means that all students are expected to have completed the assigned readings before attending the class sessions during which they will be discussed (with the exception of the first class meeting). This way, class discussions will be stimulating and conducive to an interactive and effective learning process. The significance of active and productive participation in class discussions by every student in the class is reflected in the formula according to which final grades will be assigned (see page 3 of this syllabus). Since there is no edited, pre-selected English-language collection of specifically *political* philosophy in China or Japan, we will be gleaning the political implications of the various strands of thought that we study. Students are not expected to have a background in Chinese or Japanese history, although such knowledge would be helpful. Students are expected to have some familiarity with political thought and social science in general.

The midterm paper (5-7 pages) will be due **via e-mail on Monday, February 19th no later than 5:15 p.m.** The take-home final examination distributed in advance will be due in **via e-mail on Monday, March 19, 2018 between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.**

Dr. Hoston holds regular office hours to give students an opportunity to discuss questions concerning the course and other matters with respect to their career plans with the professor. In addition, the Teaching Assistant also holds regular office hours to discuss the course material,

assignments, and exams. Often such discussions outside the classroom can be even more valuable than regular class time for the student.

Finally, in order to offer additional opportunities to ask and answer questions and to discuss course material outside the classroom, an online discussion group has been established. On the first day of class, you will be given your first assignment: to subscribe to the online discussion group by sending an e-mail to poli113b-2018-subscribe@yahoo.com from the e-mail address you would like to use for the group (not necessarily your "@ucsd.edu" address). Participating actively in the on-line group, you can take advantage of an ideal opportunity for you to participate if you happen to be shy speaking in front of a group. The group site will also be used by the instructors and students to organize review sessions and study groups, exchange ideas on and suggestions about the midterm and final papers, and generally to facilitate the learning process. While the syllabus and paper prompts will also appear on the TritonEd course site, all other items and messages will be posted on our Yahoo! group.

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and are also available on reserve at Geisel Library:

-Wing-tsit Chan, trans. and comp., *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1969), paper, ISBN 0-691-21964-9

-Wm Theodore de Bary, *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 1, 2nd ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001), paper, ISBN 0-231-12139-3

-William Soothill, trans., *The Lotus of the Wonderful Law, or The Lotus Gospel* (New York: RoutledgeCurzon, 1993), paper, ISBN 0-7007-0198-2

SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSION TOPICS AND READINGS

WEEK 1:	JAN 8	Course Introduction. What is Political Philosophy? The Notion of the "Political", Legitimacy, and Comparative Political Thought Reading: Chan, <i>Source Book</i> , chap. 1
WEEK 2:	JAN 15	No class meeting [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day] The Chinese Historical Setting and the Emergence of Confucianism Reading: Chan, <i>Source Book</i> , chaps. 2-3
WEEK 3:	JAN 22	Confucianism and its Contenders: The Problem of Human Nature (I) Reading: Chan, <i>Source Book</i> , chaps. 4-6
WEEK 4:	JAN 29	Confucianism and its Contenders: The Problem of Human Nature (II) (Daoism, Mohism, Legalism)

Reading: Chan, *Source Book*, chaps. 7-10, 12

WEEK 5: FEB 5 **The Yin-Yang School and the Book of Change (*Yijing*)**
Reading: Chan, *Source Book*, chaps. 11, 13

WEEK 6: FEB 12 **Buddhist Influences in China and Japan**
Reading: Chan, *Source Book*, chaps. 14-16

NO CLASS MEETING ON MONDAY, FEB. 19 (PRESIDENTS' DAY)
MIDTERM PAPER DUE ON MONDAY, FEB. 19 VIA E-MAIL

WEEK 7: FEB 19 **Indigenous Thought in Ancient Japan and Further
Developments in Political Thought in China**
Reading: De Bary, *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 1, chaps. 1-3, 5-6 (in
both editions)
Chan, chaps. 17-19

WEEK 8: FEB 26 **The Elaboration of Buddhism in India and China**
Reading: *The Lotus Sutra* (trans. Soothill)

WEEK 9: MAR 5 **Zen Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism**
Reading: Chan, chaps. 20 and 26
De Bary, *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, I: chaps. 7, 10, 13 (chap. 11
in the 1st ed.), and 14 (chap. 12 in the 1st ed.)

WEEK 10: MAR 12 **Conclusions and Review Session**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

All students are expected to attend every class meeting prepared to participate actively and constructively in class discussion.¹ The class participation component of the course grade will be based on such participation in all sessions. The formula that will determine the final grade is as follows:

Class attendance and participation:	30%
Midterm written assignment:	30%
Final take-home examination:	40%

¹ The exception to this rule is in case of illness. If you are ill, please do not come to class and expose others to your illness. When you have recovered, simply bring a doctor's note to verify your illness. If you anticipate missing class for some other reason, please notify the instructor in advance by telephone or e-mail.