Social and Intellectual History of China, 1400 B.C. - 589 A.D.

The course will focus on the social and cultural backgrounds of the rise of ancient Chinese philosophies: the formation and nature of the Chou feudal society; the origins of Confucian humanism; the metaphysical, ethical, and socio-political theories of classical Confucianism, the doctrines and evolution of classical Taoism, Moism, and Legalism; the establishment of the Chinese imperial state and its impact on Chinese thought: the transformation of Confucianism in the Han; the disintegration of the Han empire and the rise of Neo-Taoism.

Since it is obviously impossible to cover all aspects of the evolution of Chinese thought and society from 1400 B.C. to 589 A.D. in the span of 15 weeks, it seems more interesting and profitable to engage in in-depth analysis of some major topics as mentioned above. Anyone, who is interested in the history of Chinese Buddhism, are urged to read independently two excellent studies: E. Zürcher, The Buddhist Conquest of China (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1959); Kenneth Ch' en, Buddhism in China (Princeton University Press, 1964; also available in Princeton paperback reprinting edition).

Lectures twice weekly, supplemented by discussion sections.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

(1) One term paper (8-10 double-spaced typewritten pages) on one of the assigned topics or a personally selected topic with the instructor's approval; (2) a mid-term in-class exam; (3) a final in-class exam.

GRADING SYSTEM

The final grade will be determined according to the following schedule: paper - 40%; final exam - 30%; mid-term exam - 20%; performance in discussion sessions - 10%.

REQUIRED READINGS

See below.
TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS

1. Preliminary Remarks and Conceptions of Social and Intellectual History

Required Readings:


Benjamin I. Schwartz, "A Brief Defense of Political and Intellectual History...with Particular Reference to Non-Western Cultures", Daedalus (Winter, 1971) RB Hist. Sch 911B.

Suggested Readings:

E. J. Hobsbawm, "From Social History to the History of Society", Daedalus (Winter, 1971) RB Hist. M6562F.


Michael Polanyi, Personal Knowledge: Towards a Post-Critical Philosophy, (University of Chicago Press, paperback edition available at the University Bookstore) (175F82).


Required Readings:


Benjamin I. Schwartz, "Transcendence in Ancient China", Daedalus (Spring, 1975), pp. 57-68.


Suggested Readings:


TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS

3. The Formations and Nature of the Chou Feudal Society

Required Reading:


Suggested Reading:


4. The Moral Idealism of Confucius and Mencius

Required Readings:


Suggested Readings:

D. C. Lau, tr., Mencius, pp. 49-204.

James Legge, tr., Confucian Analects in the Four Books (Paragon Reprint Corp.) or The Chinese Classics (Hong Kong University Press, 1960) PL 2461 R43.

5. The Metaphysical and Political Thought of Classical Confucianism

Required Readings:


Suggested Reading:

TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS

6. Modern

Required Reading: F. W. Mote, Intellectual Foundations of China, Chapter 5.


7. Classical Texts

Required Readings:

Wing-tsit Chan, tr., The Way of Lao Tzu.

F. W. Mote, Intellectual Foundations of China, Chapter 4.

Suggested Readings:


Burton Watson, tr., The Complete Works of Chuang Tzu (Columbia University Press, 1968) BL 1900 C5 W34.


8. The Founding of the Chinese Poetical Tradition: The Book of Songs (the Shih-ching) and The Songs of Ch'ü (the Ch'ü-tz'u)

Suggested Readings:

Arthur Waley, tr., The Book of Songs.

David Hawkes, tr., Ch'ü Tz'u: the Songs of the South (Oxford University Press).


TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS

9. Theodicy of Human Nature in Mencius and Shyuntzy (Rsunzhu)

Required Readings:


Suggested Readings:


10. Chinese Thought on Natural Law


11. The Transformations of Confucianism in the Han


12. Han Society


13. Social Consciousness on the Eve of the Breakdown of the Han

Required Reading: E. Balazs, Chinese Civilization and Bureaucracy, Chapter 13, BL 721 S213.


Required Reading: E. Balazs, Chinese Civilization and Bureaucracy, Chapter 14.

Suggested Readings:
