Introduction to Confucianism and Daoism (Taoism) (AP/WM644)

Spring 2014; Tuesday 6:30-9:30 pm

Instructors: Dr. Kevin Xiyi Yao,

Office Hours: ROM GL 114; Times:
(Always best to make appointment)

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Course Description and Objectives
Confucianism and Daoism (Taoism) are no doubt two of the most influential religious traditions in Asia, and deeply shaped the cultures in the East Asian countries such as Korea, Japan, and China. As East Asia has been emerging as a global political and economic powerhouse, its cultural religious and cultural heritages also receive growing attention. In the recent centuries these two traditions extended their influences globally through various channel including East Asian diaspora.

To help us better equipped for the missions among East Asian peoples, this introductory course will trace the histories of Confucianism and Taoism, explore their beliefs, and their shaping influences on Chinese, Korean and Japanese cultures, societies, and daily life of the peoples, and highlight their global presence and outreach. And Christian evaluations of these two traditions will be offered. Special attention will be given to their contemporary revivals and growing influences in the world, the challenges they have and will pose to Christian missions, and possible Christian responses. The Learning Objectives of this course are stated as follows:

Learning Objectives

First, Students will have opportunities to understand the beliefs, practices, and histories of Confucianism and Taoism;
Second, Students will be able to assess their shaping influences on the worldview and the patterns of culture and life of the peoples in East Asia and other parts of the world;

Third, Students will be guided to discover and grasp essential differences between Confucian/ Taoist and Christian worldviews, and to evaluate the two traditions from the Christian perspectives. Their challenges and missiological implications to the Church will be highlighted.

Fourth, Students will explore the Christian missiological approaches and apologetic responses to the traditions and mission strategy relevant in the Confucian and Taoist contexts. By so doing, students will formulate a Biblical approach to non-Christian religions or theology of religion.

Fifth, Students will have opportunities to analyze their presence in the mainstream culture in the West as well as the sub-cultures of particular ethnic minority groups in North America. Relevant evangelistic thinking is encouraged.

**Format**

Classroom lecture and discussion will be combined. Each session will focus on certain chapters or sections of Berthrong and Kohn’s books. Professor will give an introductory talk, and raise some questions. Then we will discuss these readings and questions. The interaction between professor and students is a crucial part of this course.

**Requirements**

A. **Two integration journals** summarizing lectures, readings, and personal reflections. It should be double-spaced, seven-eight pages for each. The first one is due on, and the second on (40%). **Due Dates:**

B. **A study project and presentation** (50%): each student should choose a subject related to the topics of this course, and do research on it:
   1. Each student should choose his or her own topic and methods, and must submit one page project proposal specifying the topic and its significances, goals and
methods, and listing the primary sources. **Due Date:** All proposals need to be approved by the professor;

2. The topics could be the introductions and explorations of any aspects of Confucianism and Daoism in any countries, or their interactions with Christianity. The nature of the projects could be introductory, apologetic or evangelistic;

3. In Week 13 and 14 each student is required to present the results of his or her studies to the whole class, and responsible for 25 minutes in one class session, including presentation and Q & A time. Each student can design the format of his or her presentation, and employ any audio-video means or multi-media to articulate their points;

4. Each student should prepare and submit a file containing (1) a three-five pages, double-spaced introduction of the project topic, its significances, and goals of the project; (2) the materials of any kinds, relevant to the topic, and supporting his or her points; (3) a five pages, double-spaced conclusion summarizing the main ideas and points of the project. **Due Date:**

**C. Participation and Attendance (10%):**

Students are required to read assigned chapters or sections of Berthrong and Kohn’s books before each class session. And students’ participation in class discussion is the key for this course. Out-of-classroom participations in missions and related events (**a field trip to Chinatown or other related sites (?) may be organized.**) are also encouraged in order to enhance students’ involvements in missions.

**Assignment and Grading Summary**

Assignments should be turned in (hard copy) in class on the due date.

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Study project and presentation</td>
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**Required Textbooks**


Some articles and materials will be assigned in class during the semester.

**Other Texts Included in Readings**


Call No. Global Shelf 205


### Topics and Required Readings

(The readings will be adjusted prior to the opening of the semester.)

#### Part I Confucianism

Week 1,

- Introduction: Course overview: syllabus;
- The Biblical view of religions and Christian approaches;
- General introduction to Confucianism and Daoism: religion or philosophy?
- Their common historical past and relation; sketches of their historical developments in relation to general intellectual and cultural history in the region;
- Their current challenges to the Church, and rising importance (*Clash of civilizations*, Samuel Huntington)

Readings:

- Tennent, 9-27
- Kraemer, ch. IV
- Yao, 1-12
- Bell, preface & introduction
Week 2,

The History of the Confucian Tradition I:
The formation and classical age: Confucius and Mencius
The Great Learning and the Doctrine of Mean

Readings:
Yao, 16-83
Chan, 3-23 (1:1-2:4), 53-56 (6A:6-7), 84-87, 95-96, 98

Week 3,

The History of the Confucian Tradition II:
The developments from the Han to Tang Dynasties
Revivals: Neo-Confucianism and modern manifestations
The dissemination and transplanting in Korea and Japan

Readings:
Yao, 83-138
Chan, 588-592, 605-612, 654-660, 751-755, 763-765
Rozman, ch. 2 & 3

Week 4

The Doctrine of Confucianism I: Is it atheistic and agnostic?
Its views on the supernatural; the concept of heaven
The nature of the Confucian worldview: human-centered.

**Project proposal due.**

Readings:
Yao, 149-153
Chan, 24-25 (2:24-3:13),
Ching, ch.4

The Doctrine of Confucianism II: human nature, family-centered relations, and morality; impact on Eastern Asian cultures and mindsets.

Readings:
Yao, 153-165
Bell: 75-90

Week 5,
Reading Week: Summarization and integration

Readings:
Bell, part one & three

Week 6,
The Doctrine of Confucianism II: continued
Christian response

Readings:
Ching, ch. 3

Week 7,
The Doctrine of Confucianism III: Society and Politics

Readings:
Yao, 165-189
Chan, 61-62, 64-67, 73-74, 90-91,
Ching, ch. 6

Assignment Due: Integration Journal I

Week 8,
Religiosity and ritualistic life

Readings:
Yao, 190-223
Ching ch.5
The historical encounters between Confucianism and Christianity

Readings:
Covell, ch. 2,3,

Week 9,
Contemporary developments and revivals in the East and West
Christian evaluations and response

Readings:
Bell, 163-191
Rozman, ch.4, 5

Week 10 ,
Reading Week: Summarization of Part I

Readings:
Covell, ch. 8,9, 10

Part II  Taoism

Week 11 ,
Survey of Taoist history: from philosophy to religion
Key founders: Lao Zi and Zhuang Zi
Christian response

Readings:
Kohn, 22-28,31-34, 40-48
Chan: 136-141 (4), 148(18) -151(22), 161(43)-162(49), 175(80)-176(81), 177-181

Week 12,
Religious ideas and practices
Readings:
Kohn: ch 3 & 4

Week 13,
Taoism III
Contemporary Revival in the East and West
Christian evaluation, reflections, challenges, and evangelism
among the Daoist believers; The religious challenges to Christian
evangelism in the 21st century; Reflections on Christian responses.
Students’ presentations.

Readings:
Kohn, ch 9, 10, 11, 12

Week 14,

Students’ presentations

Assignments Due: Integration Journal II; project file

All topics and required readings are subject to change without notice.

Selected Bibliography


Berthrong, John H., and Evelyn Hagai Berthrong, Confucianism, A Short Introduction


