Lingnan University  
Department of Philosophy – MA in Practical Philosophy Programme

Course Title : Confucianism and Daily Life  
Course Code : PHI517  
Recommended Study Year : -  
No. of Credits/Term : 3  
Mode of Tuition : Lecture and Tutorial  
Class Contact Hours : 3  
Category in Major Programme : Tradition and Practical Wisdom  
Prerequisite(s) : -  
Co-requisite(s) : -  
Exclusion(s) : -  
Exemption Requirement(s) : -

Brief Course Description
The political, economic, social and technological changes that have taken place over the last century have diminished the political, economic and social foundation of the Confucian system. Confucianism seems to have been reduced to being merely a theory or a doctrine without practical meaning, an old paradigm lacking influence on and relevance to modern life. This course we will consider how Confucianism can respond to the philosophical problems of modernity and how to Confucian values can be revitalised in the context of modern life. The goal is to engage with Confucianism as a potentially live philosophy in the modern world.

Aims
1. To provide students an understanding of modernity and its problems;  
2. To enable students to gain critical perspective on how Confucianism can respond to the philosophical problems of modernity;  
3. To enable students to think about the role Confucianism might (or might not) be able to play a role as a philosophical resource in the modern world.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. describe the main characteristics of modernity and its problem  
2. evaluate Confucianism in the light of modernity  
3. explain the relevance of Confucianism in modern life

Indicative Content
1. Weber on modernity: rationalization and the disenchantment of the world  
2. The rationality of tradition and the confucian tradition  
3. The unencumbered self and the confucian self  
4. Liberal rights and confucian virtues  
5. The procedural republic and the confucian community  
6. Moral autonomy, civil liberties, and confucianism  
7. The predicament of modern moral philosophy  
8. Human autonomy and the basis of morality  
9. Confucian ideas of human flourishing  
10. The mechanization of the world-picture and the domination of nature  
11. Confucianism and environmental ethics  
12. Pluralism, relativism, and interaction between cultures: a confucian response

Teaching Method
Lectures and tutorial format
Measurement of Learning Outcomes
1. Students will give oral presentations on assigned readings. They are expected to summarize, paraphrase and respond critically to the arguments in these texts.
2. Students will write a philosophical essay, the topics of which correspond to the contents of the lectures. They are expected to present their interpretations and criticisms effectively.
3. The examination will assess students’ basic knowledge of theories of modernity and Confucianism.

Assessment
60% Continuous Assessment, 40% Final Examination

Required Readings

Supplementary Readings
牟宗三, *政道與治道*, 台北：學生書局，1987。
杜維明, *現代精神與儒家傳統*, 北京：三聯書店，1997。
蕭振邦, *儒學的現代反思*, 台北：文津出版社，1997。
金耀基, *從傳統到現代*, 台北：時報文化，1992。