Lingnan University  
Department of Philosophy – MA in Practical Philosophy Programme

Course Title : Contemporary Neo-Confucianism  
Course Code : PHI 527  
Recommended Study Year : -  
No. of Credits/Term : 3  
Mode of Tuition : Lecture and tutorial  
Class Contact Hours : 2 hours Lecture/week; 1 hour Tutorial/week  
Category in Programme : Tradition and Practical Wisdom  
Prerequisite(s) : -  
Co-requisite(s) : N/A  
Exclusion(s) : N/A  
Exemption Requirement(s) : N/A

Brief Course Description
In this course, students will study Contemporary Neo-Confucianism as one of the most significant intellectual responses to the cultural crises that have emerged since China started her modernisation in the 19th century. Although Contemporary Neo-Confucianism comprises various major thinkers in facing the crises of Chinese culture, this school of thought attempted to reveal the characteristics of Chinese culture and reflect on its values. The thinkers of this school also tackled the issues of the compatibility of Chinese and modern Western culture, as well as the possible contribution of Chinese culture in solving problems arisen in the modern world. Apart from introducing the common views and beliefs shared by the Contemporary Neo-Confucian thinkers, this course will focus on the individual thoughts of Mou Tsung-san, Tang Chun-I and Xu Fu-guan. Finally, the course will examine the problems of Contemporary Neo-Confucianism, in both theoretical and practical respects.

Aims
This course aims at providing student with the understanding of the cultural crises of China in late 19th century and the responses of it from the important Contemporary Neo-Confucian thinkers. It also aims at examining the philosophy of Contemporary Neo-Confucianism as inherited as well as developed from classical Confucianism.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of the course, students are expected to grasp Contemporary Neo-Confucianism’s stand and views with regard to the following issues: How should we understand and evaluate the essential characteristics of traditional Chinese culture? Is the value system in traditional Chinese culture compatible with that of the modern world? To what extent can Western civilisation contribute to the transformation of Chinese culture? How can traditional Chinese culture contribute to the process of modernisation? How does the philosophy of Contemporary Neo-Confucianism contribute to the solution of issues in Western philosophy?

Indicative Content
1. Introduction: Confucianism and Contemporary Neo-Confucianism
2. Historical background of Contemporary Neo-Confucian Thought
3. Stand and view of Contemporary Neo-Confucianism  
   a. The understanding of the essential characteristics of traditional Chinese culture  
   b. The evaluation of traditional Chinese culture  
   c. The challenge of Western civilization  
   d. The evaluation of Western civilization  
   e. The contribution of traditional Chinese culture to the process of modernization
4. The Thought of Tang Chun-i
5. The Thought of Mou Tsung-san  
6. The Thought of Xu Fu-guan  
7. The possible development of Contemporary Neo-Confucianism  
8. The Critique of Contemporary Neo-Confucianism  

Teaching Method  
Lecture and tutorial  

Measurement of Learning Outcomes  
1. Students will give oral presentation on assigned topics in the tutorials. They are expected to be able to analyse and synthesize various points of view on the issues mentioned in the learning outcome.  
2. Students will write short essays based on their presentations. They should be able to show their understanding and reflection of issues involved in the subject.  
3. Students will write a term paper. They are expected to consolidate the knowledge they have acquired in this course. They should also be able to draw on a range of sources in making judgments and should be in a position to evaluate different viewpoints critically.  

Assessment  
60% Continuous Assessment  
40% Term Paper  

Required Readings  
鄭家棟，《現代新儒學概論》，南寧：廣西人民出版社，1990。  
蔡仁厚，《新儒家的精神方向》，台北：台灣學生局，1984。  

Supplementary Readings  
Text: Selected writings by Tang Chun-I, Mou Tsung-san and Xu Fu-guan  
方克立編，《文化意識宇宙的探索：唐君毅新儒學論著輯要》，北京：中國廣播電視出版社，1992。  
余英時，《錢穆與新儒家》，《猶記風吹水上緣》，台北：三民書局，1991。  
李維武編，《中國人文精神之闡揚 — 徐復觀新儒學論著輯要》，北京：中國廣播電視出版社，1996。  
啓良，《新儒學批判》，上海：上海三聯書店，1995。  
黃克勤，《寂寞中的復興 — 論當代新儒家》，南京：江西人民出版社，1994。  
鄭家棟編，《道德理想主義的重建 — 牟宗三新儒學論著輯要》，北京：中國廣播電視出版社，1992。  
顏炳罡，《整合與重鑄：當代大儒牟宗三先生思想研究》，台北：學生書局，1995。  
張祥浩，《唐君毅思想研究》，天津：天津人民出版社，1994。  
羅義俊編，《評新儒家》，上海：上海人民出版社，1989。  
李明輝，《當代儒家之自我轉化》，台北：中國文哲研究所籌備處，1996。