Course Title: The Pre-Qin Mainstream Philosophy
Course Code: PHI532
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Lecture and tutorial
Class Contact Hours: 2 hours Lecture/week; 1 hour Tutorial/week
Category in Major Programme: Tradition and Practical Wisdom
Prerequisite(s): N/A
Co-requisite(s): N/A
Exclusion(s): N/A
Exemption Requirement(s): N/A

Brief Course Description
This course covers the Pre-Qin period in Chinese philosophy. It concentrates on the distinctive features of Chinese philosophy, including the main concerns, themes and approaches of different schools of thought. Equal weight will be given to the philosophy and the history component: the meaning, implications, significance of philosophical problems and their solutions as well as the development of these problems and conceptions will be under scrutiny. The interaction between schools of thought will also be examined. Students will be supervised in their study of texts so as to understand the original context from which the problems and concepts spring.

Aims
The course aims to enable students:
1. To acquire an understanding of the problems and conceptions in Chinese philosophy.
2. To be cognizant of the development within schools of thought and their interaction.
3. To be aware of the main concerns and distinctive approaches of Chinese philosophy.
4. To attain a training in the interpretation of key concepts in the text.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students are expected to
1. acquire general knowledge of the school of thoughts in the period covered.
2. have reflected on the distinctive characteristics of Chinese philosophy.
3. improve the ability of reading ancient Chinese philosophical text.

Indicative Content
1. Introduction: The distinctive features of Chinese philosophy
2. Pre-Qin Period
   a. The rise of humanistic spirit
   b. Confucianism
      I. Doctrine of Confucius
         i. The meaning of ren
         ii. Relationship among ren, yi and li
         iii. The Theory of Moral Practice
         iv. Political Philosophy
      II. Doctrine of Mencius
         i. The Doctrine of Good Human Nature
         ii. The Theory of Moral Practice
iii. Political Philosophy

III. Doctrine of Hsun Tzu
   i. The Theory of Evil Human Nature
   ii. The Theory of Moral Cultivation

c. Daoism
   I. Doctrine of Lao Tzu
      i. The Idea of Dao, Nothingness and Being Natural
      ii. Political Philosophy
   II. Doctrine of Chuang Tzu
      i. The Negation of Cognitive Self and Physical Self
      ii. The Concept of absolute freedom
      iii. The Union of Heaven, Thing and Self

d. Mohism

e. Legalism

f. Dialectician

Teaching Method
Lecture and tutorial

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
1. Students will give oral presentation on assigned topic in the tutorials. They are expected to be able to analyze and synthesize various points of view and evaluate them critically.
2. Students will write a mid-term paper. They are expected to consolidate the knowledge they have learned in this course. Besides, they should be able to draw on a range of sources in making judgments.
3. Term-end paper will assess students’ general knowledge of the history of Chinese philosophy in the period covered. Students should be able to show their understanding of issues involved in the subject.

Assessment
100% Continuous Assessment

Required Readings
勞思光，《新編中國哲學史》，第一、二卷，台北：三民書局，1984。
牟宗三，《中國哲學十九講》，台北：學生書局，1985。

Supplementary Readings
唐君毅，《中國哲學原論—導論篇》，台北：學生書局，1984。
馮友蘭，《中國哲學史》，上冊，香港：三聯書店，1992。
馮耀明，《中國古代哲學思想》，第一、二、三、四冊，香港：香港公開進修學院，1992。
蔡仁厚，《中國哲學史大綱》，台北：學生書局，1988。
牟宗三，《中國哲學的特質》，台北：學生書局，1963。
徐復觀，《中國人性論史—先秦篇》，第六版，台北：商務印書館，1982。