

Lingnan University
Department of Philosophy

Course Title	: The Philosophy of Zhuangzi
Course Code	: PHI2001
Recommended Study Year	: 2 nd , 3 rd , and 4 th Years
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture and tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 2 hours Lecture/week; 2 hours Tutorial/fortnight
Category in Major Programme	: Programme Elective – Topics in Chinese Philosophy
Prerequisite(s)	: PHI2112 History of Chinese Philosophy: Pre-Qin to Han
Co-requisite(s)	: N/A
Exclusion(s)	: N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

Being a well-known text in Chinese intellectual history, the *Zhuangzi* is a source of inspiration for writers, artists as well as philosophers. While it is difficult to ascertain its standpoint given the imaginative writing style, the text leads readers to think through many topics in Chinese philosophy in a reflective and critical way. This course investigates philosophical discussions in the *Zhuangzi* and articulates their context, questions and possible answers. The course also critically compares Zhuangist philosophy to other schools on issues such as the ideal personhood, methods of cultivation, health, knowledge, language, nature and society.

Aims

1. Enhance students' understanding of the historical and philosophical significance of the *Zhuangzi* text.
2. Enhance students' familiarity with the relationship between the *Zhuangzi* text and other strands of thought in Chinese philosophy.
3. Enhance students' abilities of appreciating and analyzing philosophical classics.
4. Enhance students' abilities of expression and critical thinking.

Learning Outcomes

Students who finish this course should be able to -

1. Understand main themes and philosophical images in the *Zhuangzi* text.
2. Critically compare the thoughts in the *Zhuangzi* text to other philosophical schools.
3. Critically evaluate the practical implication of the thoughts in the *Zhuangzi* text.
4. Articulate their own views on various debates about Zhuangist philosophy.

Indicative Content

1. The *Zhuangzi* and the spirit of Daoism
2. The last chapter of the *Zhuangzi*: "All under Heaven"
3. On language: the indeterminacy of names and the use of metaphor
4. On knowledge (I): the ineffability of skills and the boundary of argumentation
5. On knowledge (II): Two kinds of knowledge and their corresponding mode of heart-mind
6. On self-cultivation (I): the idea of illumination and sagehood
7. On self-cultivation (II): forgetting and learning
8. On human relationship (I): convention, authenticity and harmony
9. On human relationship (II): inevitability and politics
10. Legacy of the *Zhuangzi*

Teaching Method

Lectures and tutorials

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

1. Tutorial Presentation: mainly corresponding to LO1, LO3, LO4
Students are required to actively participate in each tutorial lesson. In addition, each student shall give a presentation. Topics and reading materials will be assigned by the teacher. Students shall submit an outline before presentation. This assessment focuses on clarity and cogency of expression.
2. Essay Writing: mainly corresponding to LO2, LO3, LO4
Students are required to set up a topic and write an essay on the *Zhuangzi* text at the end of course. The essay should be written in an academic manner. This assessment focuses on analytic, argumentative and organizational skills.
3. Final Exam: mainly corresponding to LO1, LO2, LO4
Students are required to take a sit-in exam at the end of the course. The exam paper consists of several essay questions and students shall select and answer some of them. This assessment focuses on summarizing, analytic and argumentative skills.

Assessment

Tutorial Presentation (30%)

Essay Writing (30%)

Final Exam (40%)

Required Readings[#]

陳鼓應：《老莊新論》修訂版，台北：五南圖書，303-323頁，2007年。

勞思光：《新編中國哲學史》（第一冊），台北：三民書局，246-270頁，2002年。

Chong, Kim-chong. "Zhuangzi's Cheng Xin and its Implications for Virtue and Perspectives." *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 10 (4): 427-443, 2011.

Connolly, Tim. "Perspectivism as a Way of Knowing in the *Zhuangzi*." *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 10 (4): 487-505, 2011.

Hansen, Chad. *A Daoist Theory of Chinese Thought*. New York: Oxford University Press, page 273-292, 1992.

_____. "Guru of Skeptic? Relativistic Skepticism in the *Zhuangzi*." in Cook, Scott, ed. *Hiding the world in the world: Uneven discourses on the Zhuangzi*. Albany: State University of New York Press, page 128-162, 2003.

Jochim, Chris. "Just Say No to 'No Self' in *Zhuangzi*." in Ames, Roger T., ed. *Wandering at Ease in the Zhuangzi*. Albany: State University of New York Press, page 35-74, 1998.

McLeod Alexis. "In the World of Persons: The Personhood Debate in the *Analects* and *Zhuangzi*." *Dao: A Journal of Comparative philosophy* 11 (4): 437-457, 2012.

Roth, Harold D. "Bimodal Mystical Experience in the 'Qiwulun 齊物論' Chapter of the *Zhuangzi* 莊子." in Cook, Scott, ed. *Hiding the world in the world: Uneven discourses on the Zhuangzi*. Albany: State University of New York Press, page 15-32, 2003.

Van Norden, Bryan W. "Competing Interpretations of the Inner Chapters of the *Zhuangzi*." *Philosophy East and West* 46 (2): 247-268, 1996.

Wang, Youru. "The Strategies of 'Goblet Words': Indirect Communication in the *Zhuangzi*." *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 31 (2): 195-218, 2004.

Ziporyn, Brook. "How Many Are the Ten Thousand Things and I? Relativism, Mysticism, and the Privileging of Oneness in the 'Inner Chapters'." in Cook, Scott, ed. *Hiding the world in the world: Uneven discourses on the Zhuangzi*. Albany: State University of New York Press, page 33-63, 2003.

(For each section, there may be assigned readings from pre-Qin primary texts in addition to

secondary literature. Details will be announced in class.)

Supplementary Readings

Commentaries and/or translations of the *Zhuangzi* :

陳鼓應：《莊子今註今譯》，香港：中華書局，2001年。

郭慶藩：《莊子集釋》，北京：中華書局，1961年。

Graham, A. C. *Chuang-Tzu: The Seven Inner Chapters and Other Writings from the Book Chuang-tzu*. London: George Allen and Unwin Publishers Ltd., 1981.

Mair, Victor H., trans. *Wandering on the Way: Early Taoist Tales and Parables of Chuang Tzu*. New York: Bantam Books, 1994.

Watson, Burton, trans. *The Complete Works of Zhuangzi*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013.

Ziporyn, Brook. *Zhuangzi: The Essential Writings with Selections from Traditional Commentaries*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2009.

Materials not focusing on Zhuangist philosophy as such yet containing influential or insightful comments :

牟宗三：《才性與玄理》，台北：學生書局，1993年。

徐復觀：《中國人性論史——先秦篇》，台北：台灣商務印書館，1969年。

_____：《中國藝術精神》（徐復觀文集第四卷），武漢：湖北人民出版社，2001年。

唐君毅：《中國哲學原論——原道篇》（卷一），台北：學生書局，1986年。

陳鼓應：《老莊新論》修訂版，台北：五南圖書，2007年。

勞思光：《新編中國哲學史》（第一冊），台北：三民書局，2002年。

蕭公權：《中國政治思想史》（第一冊），沈陽：遼寧教育出版社，1998年。

Cheng, Chung-ying. "Nature and Function of Skepticism in Chinese Philosophy." *Philosophy East and West* 27 (2): 137-154, 1977.

Graham, A. C. *Disputers of the Tao*. La Salle: Open Court, 1989.

Hansen, Chad. *A Daoist Theory of Chinese Thought*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Kohn, Livia. "Eternal Life in Taoist Mysticism." *Journal of American Oriental Society* 110 (4): 623-648, 1990.

Kupperman, Joel J. *Learning from Asian Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Lai, Karyn. *An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Lee, Yearley H. "Hsün Tzu on the Mind: His Attempted Synthesis of Confucianism and Taoism." *Journal of Asian Studies* 39 (3): 465-480, 1980.

Levi, Don S. *In Defense of Informal Logic*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

Schwartz, Benjamin I. *The World of Thought in Ancient China*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1985.

Slingerland, Edward G. *Effortless Action: Wu-wei as conceptual metaphor and spiritual ideal in early China*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Wong, David. "Identifying with Nature in Early Daoism." *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 36 (4): 568-584, 2009.

Materials focusing on Zhuangist philosophy :

王博：《莊子哲學》，北京：北京大學出版社，2004年。

牟宗三，〈齊物論講演錄〉，《鵝湖月刊》326：2-11，2002年。

畢來德（Jean François Billeter）著，宋剛譯：《莊子四講》，台北，聯經出版，2011年。

劉笑敢：《莊子哲學及其演變》，北京：中國社會科學出版社，1988年。

Ames, Roger T., ed. *Wandering at Ease in the Zhuangzi*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998.

- Chong, Kim-chong. "Zhuangzi and the Nature of Metaphor." *Philosophy East and West* 56 (3): 370-391, 2006.
- Cook, Scott, ed. *Hiding the world in the world: Uneven discourses on the Zhuangzi*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003.
- Coutinho, Steve. *Zhuangzi and Early Chinese Philosophy*. Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing, 2004.
- Kjellberg, Paul and Ivanhoe, Philip J., ed. *Essays on Skepticism, Relativism and Ethics in the Zhuangzi*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1996.
- Mair, Victor H, ed. *Experimental Essays on Chuang-Tzu*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1983.
- Roth, Harold D. "The Early Taoist Concept of *Shen*: A Ghost in the Machine?" in Smith, Kidder ed. *Sagehood and Systematizing Thought in Warring States and Han China*, page 11-32. Brunswick: Bowdoin College, 1990.
- Wong, David. "Zhuangzi and the Obsession with Being Right." *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 22 (2): 91-107, 2005.

* (There may be specific readings for each topic, please refer to lecture notes)

Important Notes

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>