Lingnan University  
Department of Philosophy

Course Title : The Philosophy of Mozi  
Course Code : PHI3285  
Recommended Study Year : 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd}, and 4\textsuperscript{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 –Chinese Philosophy Profile  
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  
Mohist philosophy flourished in the foundational period of Chinese philosophy and was considered a major school at that time. It was then silenced for over a thousand years. However, in early 20\textsuperscript{th} century, when the term “Chinese philosophy” was established and regarded as an indicator of the modernization of traditional Chinese thought, Mohist philosophy suddenly regained its reputation and power for a while. Although its rise and fall are always short-lived, its influence is prominent and enduring. This course investigates theories in Mohist philosophy and reveals its importance, with a focus on Mohists’ theories about knowledge, ethics and politics, the relationship between Mohism and other schools, as well as contemporary interpretations of Mohist insights.

Aims  
1. Make students have in-depth understanding of the historical and philosophical significance of Mohism.  
2. Make students become familiar with Mohist theories.  
3. Enhance students’ abilities of reading 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 core concepts and claims in Mohism.  
2. Critically compare Mohism to other philosophical schools.  
3. Critically evaluate the openness, strength and weakness of Mohism.  
4. Articulate their own views on various debates about Mohism.

Indicative Content  
1. The relationship between Mohism and “Chinese philosophy” as a modern subject  
2. Historical background of the rise of Mohism  
3. Early Mohists on knowledge: name, practice, standard and three gnomons  
4. Later Mohists on knowledge: name, actuality, language and argument  
5. Ten Theses: Moderation in use and funeral, against music and fate  
6. Ten Theses: Heaven’s intention and elucidating ghosts  
7. Ten Theses: Inclusive concern and against aggression (I): the content of inclusiveness and its justification  
9. Ten Theses: Conforming upward and elevating the worthy (I): the form and justification of political power
10. Ten Theses: Conforming upward and elevating the worthy (II): the operation of ideal society
11. Legacy of Mohism

Teaching Method
Lectures and tutorials

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
1. Tutorial Presentation: mainly corresponding to LO1, LO2, 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 LO1, LO3, LO4
   Students are required to write an essay on Mohism at the end of course. Essay topics will be provided by the teacher. This assessment focuses on analytic, argumentative and organizational skills.
3. Final Exam: mainly corresponding to LO2, LO3, LO4
   Students are required to take a sit-in exam at the end of 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
胡適：《中國哲學史大綱》，上海：上海古籍出版社，1997．頁276-287。
萧公權：《中國政治思想史》（第一冊），沈陽：遼寧教育出版社，1998．頁127-140。
唐君毅：《中國哲學原論——原道篇》（卷一），台北：學生書局，1986．頁179-188。
王謙源：《墨子》，台北：東大圖書，1996．頁183-206。


# (For each section, there will 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 *Mozi*:
- 李漁叔: 《墨子今註今譯》, 台北: 商務印書館, 1974。
- 李生龍注, 李振興校: 《新譯墨子讀本》, 台北: 三民書局, 1996。
- 孫詒讓: 《墨子閒詁》, 北京: 中華書局, 1954。

Materials not focusing on Mohist philosophy as such yet containing influential or insightful comments:
- 胡適: 《中國哲學史大綱》,上海: 上海古籍出版社, 1997。
- 徐復觀: 《中國人性論——先秦篇》,台北: 台灣商務印書館, 1969。
- 唐君毅: 《中國哲學原論——原道篇》（卷一），台北: 學生書局，1986。
- 馮友蘭: 《中國哲學史》，香港: 中國圖書公司，1959。
- 勞思光: 《新編中國哲學史》(第一冊)，台北: 三民書局，1981。
- 蕭公權: 《中國政治思想史》(第一冊)，沈陽: 遼寧教育出版社，1998。

Materials focusing on Mohist philosophy:
- 王讚源: 《墨子》，台北: 東大圖書，1996。
- 吳進安: 《墨家哲學》，台北: 五南圖書，2003。
- 梁啟超: 《墨子學案》，上海: 商務印書館，1921。
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/