

**Lingnan University**  
**Department of Philosophy**

<b>Course Title</b>	: Pre-Qin Taoism
<b>Course Code</b>	: PHI4266
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year or 4 <sup>th</sup> Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Lecture and tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 2 hours Lecture/week; 1 hour Tutorial/week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	: Programme Elective –Chinese Philosophy Profile
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	: At least one course in History of Chinese Philosophy 1. PHI2112 History of Chinese Philosophy: From Pre-Qin to Han 2. PHI2116 History of Chinese Philosophy: From Wei-Jin to Ming
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	: N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	: N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	: N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

Confucianism and Daoism are generally regarded as two main streams of Chinese philosophy. Though it is unlike Confucianism which possesses an orthodox position within the institutional system, Daoism has great influence in many areas of Chinese culture, such as personal outlook, painting and literature. Its metaphysics is also considered as exhibiting the most typically philosophical thinking in Chinese philosophy. In this course, students will study the philosophies of Laozi and Zhuangzi, their influence within and beyond the philosophy.

### **Aims**

This course aims

1. To introduce Daoist philosophy in Pre-Qin period;
2. To compare Daoism with Confucianism as regard to the theme, the approach and the doctrine;
3. To study the meaning of Daoism in our daily lives.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students are expected to understand the thought of Daoism in Pre-Qin period (LO1). They are also expected to reflect the possible application of Daoist wisdom to solve human problems in the contemporary world (LO2).

### **Indicative Content**

1. Introduction
  - a. The rise of Daoism
  - b. The main concern of Daoism
  - c. The characteristics of Daoist thinking
2. The Philosophy of Laozi
  - a. The metaphysics  
*Dao, Wu* and *Yu*
  - b. Human beings and *Dao*
  - c. The ideal man
  - d. The ideal society
3. The Philosophy of Zhuangzi
  - a. *Dao, De* and Nature

- b. Attitude towards life and death
  - c. Attitude towards knowledge
  - d. The effort for liberation
  - e. The state of absolute freedom
  - f. The difference between Laozi and Zhuangzi
4. The evaluation of Daoism
- a. From a cultural point of view
  - b. As an insightful guidance in the contemporary world

### 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 analyse and synthesize various points of view and evaluate them critically (LO1).
2. Students will write a 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 (LO1).
3. Examination will assess students' general knowledge of the thought of Pre-Qin Daoism. Students should be able to show their understanding of issues involved in the subject(LO1; LO2).

### Assessment

1. Tutorial 30%
2. Term paper 30%
3. Final Examination 30%
4. Attendance 10%

### Required Readings

- 牟宗三，《才性與玄理》，香港：人生出版社，1963。
- 牟宗三，〈老子《道德經》講演錄〉，《鵝湖月刊》，第334-343期。
- 鄭良樹，《老子新校》，台北：學生書局，1997。
- 郭慶藩，《莊子集釋》，台北：河洛圖書出版社，1974。

### Supplementary Readings

- 牟宗三講，陶國璋整理，《〈莊子·齊物論〉義理演析》，香港：中華書局，1998。
- 袁保新，《老子哲學之詮釋與重建》，台北：文津，1991。
- 劉笑敢，《老子》，台北：東大，1997。
- 牟宗三，《中國哲學十九講》，台北：學生書局，1983。
- 葉海煙，《莊子的生命哲學》，台北：東大，1990。
- 楊國榮，《莊子的思想世界》，北京：北京大學，2006。
- 吳汝鈞，《老莊哲學的現代析論》，台北：文津，1998。
- 陳鼓應註譯，《老子今註今譯》，台北：台灣商務印書館，1970。
- 陳鼓應註譯，《莊子今註今譯》，香港：中華書局，2001。
- 王邦雄，《莊子內七篇·外秋水·雜天下的現代解讀》，台北：遠流，2013。
- 王邦雄，《老子道德經的現代解讀》，台北：遠流，2010。
- 方東美，《原始儒家道家哲學》，臺北：黎明文化事業公司，1993。
- 杜保瑞，《反者道之動》，北京：華文出版社，1997。

## **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/>