

HISTORY OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE THOUGHT

MW 3:30-4:45 PM, On Zoom ([class link](#))

Confucius said, "When it comes to being Good, defer to no one, not even your teacher."



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Office Hour: Tuesday 4-6PM, [Zoom link](#)

Textbooks:

Ivanhoe, Philip J., Bryan W. Van Norden eds. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Second Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Pub Co., 2006. **ISBN-10:** 0872207803, **ISBN-13:** 978-0872207806

Van Norden, Bryan W. *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2011. **ISBN-10:** 1603844686, **ISBN-13:** 978-1603844680

PDF Readings:

In addition to the textbooks, we will read a selection of primary sources (in translation) and some secondary scholarship. The readings are available on Gauchospace as PDFs.

Course Description in Three Words



China

The human society residing at the eastern end of the Eurasian landmass.



Traditional

In this class we are going to cover the time period from antiquity through the late imperial times, roughly, 500s BCE to 1600s CE.



Thought

Philosophical ideas produced by prominent thinkers, including the most famous Confucius, as well as his peers, friends, (fr)enemies, and followers. In the first half of the quarter we will focus on the classical period, when Confucius competed with many other fine thinkers, such as Laozi (chill frenemy), Mencius (loquacious follower), Xunzi (managerial follower), and Han Fei Zi (hardcore antagonist), among others. In the second half we will turn to the middle and late imperial times, when Buddhism arrived on Chinese soil and provoked exciting new development, such as the rise of Neo-Confucianism. This class will primarily focus on the Confucian tradition, but will also introduce Daoism and Buddhism.