This course is the first part of a two-part series that offers an intensive examination of major strands of Chinese and Japanese political thought from antiquity to the mid-twentieth century. (It is not necessary to take both parts of the sequence.) You will be reading original writings of Chinese and Japanese philosophers in translation. We will endeavor to compare and contrast views of Chinese and Japanese philosophers with perspectives of leading ancient and modern Western thinkers. Special emphasis will be placed on how the views of Chinese and Japanese thinkers responded to changing conditions within and outside their own societies, and on how ideas changed as they moved from one historical and social context to another.

The course will be conducted in a combination lecture-discussion format. This means that all students are expected to have completed the assigned readings before attending the class sessions during which they will be discussed. Only thus can class discussions be stimulating and conducive to an interactive and effective learning process. The significance of active and productive participation in class discussions by every student in the class is reflected in the formula according to which final grades will be assigned. Since there is no edited, pre-selected English-language collection of specifically political philosophy in China or Japan, we will need to glean the political implications of the various strands of thought that we study.

Students are not expected to have a background in Chinese or Japanese history, although such knowledge would be helpful. Students are expected to have some familiarity with political thought and social science in general. By week 5, students must submit a proposed paper topic to be approved by the instructor. The final paper (approximately 20 pages) will be a thought piece, although it is expected to draw on materials beyond that assigned for the course, and to the extent that it is practicable, such materials should include readings in Chinese or Japanese language.

The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and will also be available on reserve at the Social Science and Humanities Library:


Approximately 3 times during the quarter, each student must present brief précis of one of the recommended readings in the seminar (about 1-1/2 pages for an article and about 3 pages for a book).

In addition to the books ordered at the University Bookstore, students might wish to acquire copies of the following books:


**SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSION TOPICS AND READINGS**

**WEEK 1: WEEK OF JAN 5**

**Course Introduction.**

What is Political Philosophy? The Notion of the “Political”, Legitimacy, and Comparative Political Thought

Reading: Chan, *Source Book*, chap. 1

**WEEK 2: JAN 12**

**Required:** The Chinese Historical Setting and the Emergence of Confucianism

Chan, *Source Book*, chaps. 2-3
Benjamin I. Schwartz, *The World of Thought in Ancient China*, chaps. 1-3

**Recommended:**


**WEEK 3: JAN 19**  
**Confucianism and its Contenders: The Problem of Human Nature (I)**

**Reading:** Chan, *Source Book*, chaps. 4-6  
Schwartz, *World of Thought in Ancient China*, chaps. 5, 7

**Recommended:**


Manyul Im, "Emotional Control and Virtue in the 'Mencius,'" *Philosophy East and West* 49.1 (January 1999): 1-27 (Note: has interesting comparisons with Aristotle)


**WEEK 4: JAN 26**  
**Confucianism and its Contenders: The Problem of Human Nature (II) (Daoism, Mohism, Legalism)**

**Reading:** Chan, *Source Book*, chaps. 7-10, 12  
Schwartz, *World of Thought in Ancient China*, chaps. 6, 8

**Recommended:**
Ch’en, *Buddhism in China*, chaps. 8-10

**WEEK 5: WEEK OF FEB 2 Paper Proposal Due**

**Reading:** Chan, *Source Book*, chaps. 11, 13
Schwartz, *World of Thought in Ancient China*, chap. 10

**Recommended:**


**WEEK 6: FEB 9 Buddhist Influences in China and Japan**

**Reading:** Chan, *Source Book*, chaps. 14-16

**Recommended:**


**WEEK 7: FEB 16** Indigenous Thought in Ancient Japan and Further Developments of Thought in China

**Reading:** De Bary, *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 1, chaps. 1-3, 5-6 (in both editions)
Chan, chaps. 17-19

**Recommended:**


Elizabeth Moriarty, "The Communitarian Aspect of Shinto Matsuri," *Asian Folklore*
Hoston, POLI 213B Chinese and Japanese Political Thought (I)  Page 6
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Studies (published by the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture), 31.2 (1972): 91-140


WEEK 8: FEB 23  The Elaboration of Buddhism in India and China
Reading: The Lotus Sutra (trans. Soothill)
Chen, Buddhism in China, chaps. 1-5

Recommended:


Arthur F. Wright, Buddhism in Chinese History (Stanford, Cal.: Stanford University Press, 1959), selected chapters


WEEK 9: MAR 2  Zen Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism
Reading: Chan, chaps. 20 and 26
De Bary, Sources of Japanese Tradition, I: chaps. 7, 10, 13 (chap. 11 in
the 1st ed.), and 14 (chap. 12 in the 1st ed.)
Ch’en, *Buddhism in China*, chaps. 8-12, 14 -16

**Recommended:**
Peter N. Gregory, ed., *Sudden and Gradual: Approaches to Enlightenment in Chinese Thought* (Honolulu: The Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Human Values and the University of Hawai’i Press, 1987)
John R. McRae, *The Northern School and the Formation of Early Ch’an Buddhism* (Honolulu: The Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Human Values and the University of Hawai’i Press,
Robert M. Gimello and Peter N. Gregory, eds., *Studies in Ch’an and Huan-yen,* (:The Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Human Values and the University of Hawai’i Press,

**WEEK 10: MAR 9 The Great Synthesis: Neo-Confucianism**

**Readings:** Ch’an, chaps. 31 and 32, 34

**Recommended:**


Frederic Wakeman, Jr., History and Will: Philosphical Perspectives of Mao Tse-tung’s Thought (Berkeley: University of California, 1973), chap. 16-17 (“Wang Yang-ming”)