

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Course Outline Winter 2010
RELS 461.02 L01 Philosophical Daoism

INSTRUCTOR Katrin Froese
CLASS TIME AND ROOM R 14:00-16:45
OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS Rm SS 1328, R 12:30-13:30
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REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books, available from the University of Calgary Bookstore, are required reading:

The I Ching or Book of Changes, tr. Richard Wilhelm
Tao-Te-Ching, Lao-Tzu, tr. Wing-tsit Chan
The Book of Chuang-Tzu, Chuang-Tzu, tr. Martin Palmer
The Lieh-tzu, tr. A.C. Graham

The Huainanzi (excerpts to be provided by instructor)
Wang Bi's Commentary on the Daodejing (provided by instructor)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE

This course will explore various texts from the philosophical tradition of Daoism. Themes to be addressed include the nature of the Dao, the sage, non-action, nothingness change, mystical awareness, knowledge, Daoist ethics, the cultivation of the self and the ideal ruler.

Objective: The objective of the course is to familiarize students with ways of thinking in the Daoist tradition as well as to enhance critical thinking and essay writing skills.

Please note that the schedule may change, depending on the nature of class discussion.

Sample Themes: January 14 **Introduction**

The Book of Changes: January 21-28
notion of change
Yin and yang
Trigrams and hexagrams
Qian and kun
Chance
Divination and interpretation

Daodejing and Wangbi's Commentary February 4-25

The *Dao*
De
The sage
Wu-wei
Nothingness
Non=being and being
The feminine
Cultivating the self
xuanxue

The Zhuangzi March 5-19

Wandering
Relativity
Scepticism
Knowledge
Language
Detachment

Liezi March 25-April 1

Dreams
Wandering
Immortality
Sage

Huainanzi April 8-15

Mutual resonance
Heaven, earth and human beings
Return to origins
The obscure

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class participation and seminar presentations	20%
First Paper <u>Due in class February 25</u> (10- pages)	40%
Final Paper <u>Due in class April 15</u> (10 pages)	40%

* *There will be no Registrar Scheduled Final Exam for this course*

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Late papers will be marked down at a rate of 3% per day. Extensions will only be granted under exceptional circumstances and must be accompanied by proper documentation (i.e. medical certificate, etc.). Computer breakdown is not a valid reason for an extension. Students are expected to make back-up copies of all their assignments.

GRADING

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

GNOSIS

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.