

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**Course Outline Winter 2010  
RELS 683.29 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  
**TELEPHONE** 403-220-3282  
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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. We will also be looking to the original texts in Chinese in order to identify some of the problems of translation.

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	<b><u>Due in class February 25</u></b> (10- pages)	40%
Final Paper	<b><u>Due in class April 15</u></b> (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 (e.g. medical certificate). 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:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Graduate Description</b>
A+	4.0	Outstanding
A	4.0	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3.0	Satisfactory performance Note: The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program.
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade.
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	
F	0.0	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.

**ACADEMIC CONDUCT**

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