

*Title and Code of Course:* Introduction to Chinese Philosophy – ERPB BSB 9073

*Instructor's Name:* Prof. Péter Vámos

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Credit Point Value: 6	Number of Lessons per Week: 2	Type of Course: Seminar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Method of Evaluation: Oral Examination <input type="checkbox"/> In-Class Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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*Course Description:*

This course provides an overview of the major traditions of Chinese philosophy and their historical development, key texts, and core concepts. Students will be introduced to Confucianism, Daoism, and Chinese Buddhism, with particular attention to their views on ethics, human nature, self-cultivation, society, and the relationship between humanity and the cosmos. The course explores foundational ideas, such as *dao*, *yin and yang*, “*being*” and “*non-being*”, and situates philosophical debates within their social, political, and religious contexts. During this course students will gain an understanding of how these philosophical traditions have shaped Chinese culture and continue to influence contemporary thought and practice.

*Bibliography:*

Gardner, Daniel K.: *Confucianism. A Very Short Introduction*. (Oxford, 2014)

Kohn, Livia: *Introducing Daoism*. (Abingdon, 2009)

Lai, Karyn: *Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*. (Cambridge, 2017)

Miller, James: *Daoism: a Beginner's Guide*. (Oxford, 2008)

Wasserstrom, Jeffrey N.: *China in the 21st Century, What Everyone Needs to Know*. (Oxford, 2010)

Yü, Chün-fang: *Chinese Buddhism. A Thematic History*. (Honolulu, 2020)

Selected excerpts from Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist texts (provided by instructor)

*Timetable:*

	Date:	Topic:
1.		Introduction to Chinese philosophy: early Chinese worldview and thought  Reading: Lai: 1–19.
2.		Historical background  Reading: Gardner: 1–15.
3.		Life and teachings of Confucius  Readings: Lai: 20–40. Wasserstrom: 1–9.

4.		Confucian Ethics and Society  Reading: Gardner: 16–48.
5.	09. 10.	Human nature: goodness and moral effort  Reading: Lai: 41–72.
6.	16. 10.	Confucianism and Legalism  Reading: Lai: 163–187.
7.	06. 11.	Introduction to Daoism  Reading: Miller 1–18.
8.	13. 11.	The <i>Daodejing</i> . Daoist views on leadership and politics  Reading: Lai: 92–129.
9.	20. 11.	The <i>Zhuangzi</i> : Relativity, spontaneity, and freedom.  Reading: Lai: 188–223.
10.	27. 11.	Daoism as Practice and Religion: Health, longevity, and self-cultivation  Reading: Raz: 1–37.
11.	04. 12.	Introduction to Chinese Buddhism  Reading: Yü: 1–27.
12.	11. 12.	Comparative and Contemporary Perspectives Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism in Contemporary China  Readings: Gardner: 112–120. Wasserstrom: 10–18. Yü: 240–262.