

<i>Title and Code of Course:</i> Introduction to Chinese Philosophy EPRB-BSB 9073			
<i>Instructor's Name:</i> Prof. Péter Vámos			
<i>Instructor's Email Address:</i> vamos.peter@kre.hu			
Credit Point Value: 6	Number of Lessons per Week: 2	Type of Course: Seminar ☒ Lecture ☐	Method of Evaluation: Oral Examination ☐ In-Class Presentation ☐ Other ☒
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 <i>dao</i> , <i>yin and yang</i> , “ <i>being</i> ” and “ <i>non-being</i> ”, 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. Assessment: The final grade will be based on class participation (20%) and the two tests (40–40%).			
Bibliography: Gardner, Daniel K.: <i>Confucianism. A Very Short Introduction</i> . (Oxford, 2014) Kohn, Livia: <i>Introducing Daoism</i> . (Abingdon, 2009) Lai, Karyn: <i>Introduction to Chinese Philosophy</i> . (Cambridge, 2017) Miller, James: <i>Daoism: a Beginner's Guide</i> . (Oxford, 2008) Wasserstrom, Jeffrey N.: <i>China in the 21st Century, What Everyone Needs to Know</i> . (Oxford, 2010) Yü, Chün-fang: <i>Chinese Buddhism. A Thematic History</i> . (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.		Human nature: goodness and moral effort Reading: Lai: 41–72.
6.		Confucianism and Legalism Reading: Lai: 163–187.
7.		Introduction to Daoism Reading: Miller 1–18.
8.		The <i>Daodejing</i> . Daoist views on leadership and politics Reading: Lai: 92–129.
9.		The <i>Zhuangzi</i> : Relativity, spontaneity, and freedom. Reading: Lai: 188–223.
10.		Daoism as Practice and Religion: Health, longevity, and self-cultivation Reading: Raz: 1–37.
11.		Introduction to Chinese Buddhism Reading: Yü: 1–27.
12.		Comparative and Contemporary Perspectives Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism in Contemporary China Readings: Gardner: 112–120. Wasserstrom: 10–18. Yü: 240–262.