History is made by people’s actions. But we can’t fully understand the meaning of other people’s actions until we understand what they thought they were doing. Intellectual history is the queen of all history as it explores how people made sense of themselves and the world and what their thought and ideas tell us about the time and place that produced them. 4,000 years of Chinese history provide us with a cornucopia of diverse intellectual traditions, many of which have perennial relevance not only to the later history of China but also to universal human conditions. This course explores some key moments and issues of Chinese intellectual history from antiquity to the modern period.

This course is designed as a 300-level history course. Students are expected to read about 120 to 150 pages a week and to develop a skill of thinking through primary sources and of evaluating the quality of scholarly works. They are expected to write at least 15 pages of academic writing in the course. *Basic background knowledge of Chinese history is strongly recommended.

**Instructor:** Sukhee Lee; sukhee@rci.rutgers.edu There is no phone in my office. Email is the only way of contacting me outside the class. Use your Rutgers email account when you write to me. And please do not forget to start your subject line with “(Chinese Intellectual History)” so that I can recognize that it is from one of you.

**Office:** Van Dyck 002E (College Avenue Campus);

**Learning Goals**
1) Develop an understanding of the role of human agency in bringing about change in society and institutions
2) Develop the ability to write persuasively and communicate effectively

**Books to be purchased**
All other readings will be provided at Sakai course site in pdf file.

**Grading**
Class attendance and participation 15%  
(attendance 5% and participation 10%)
FIVE response papers based on primary source analysis 10%
THREE Quizzes
TWO Papers
   Book review (should be double-spaced, typed, and 4-5 page long)  15%
   Longer paper (6-7 page)  20%
Final exam  25%

On academic integrity
Plagiarized paper or cheating in exams will result in, at least, “F” for the assignment. In addition, the cases will be reported to the university administration for sanctions. As for the Rutgers policies on academic integrity, see [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml)

Other Class Policies
*Lecture and section attendance is your most basic responsibility. I will take attendance at every lecture and section. Unexcused absences, when they exceed twice, will affect your final grade. (e.g. 3 times, -10% from your “class attendance and participation”; 4 times, -20%; …) If you are absent from more than one third of the entire classes and sections, you will automatically get “F.”
*Please turn off your cell phones as a courtesy to others.
*Late paper will be penalized by subtracting FIVE points for every day past the due date FOR THE FIRST FIVE days. No paper will be accepted after FIVE days past the due. Famous lines such as “I am pretty sure that I emailed that to you the other day” or “I certainly uploaded it at Sakai in time, but somehow can’t find it there now” will do no good unless you show me “hard evidence” of such claims (e.g. a print of your original sent mail showing the time of its sending).

Weekly Schedule

**Week 1**  Introduction
   1) Course Introduction
   2) Why Intellectual History? Why China?

**Week 2**  Early Cultural Orientations
   1) Shang and Early Zhou
   2) Tradition of Sage Kings
Week 3  The Axial Age in China

1) Disintegration of the Zhou Feudal Order  
2) Confucius, the First Teacher

chapter 1

Week 4  Critics of Confucius: Impartial Caring and Self-Love

1) Mozi  
2) Laozi, Yang Zhu, and Zhuangzi  
*Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, chapters 2, 4, and 5

Week 5  In Defense of Confucian Ideals

1) DISCUSSION SECTION I  
2) Mencius and Xunzi  
*Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, chapters 3 and 6

Week 6  Art of War and Art of Bureaucracy

1) Sunzi and Han Feizi  
2) Rise of Eclecticism: Guanzi and Master Lü’s *Spring and Autumn Annals*  
*Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, chapter 7

Week 7  History and Empire

1) DISCUSSION SECTION II  
2) Sima Qian and the *Discourses on Salt and Iron*  
Sima Qian, “The Biography of Po Yi (Bo Yi) and Shu Ch’i (Shu Qi),” *Records of the Historian: Chapters from the Shih Chi of Ssu-ma Ch’ien*, 7-15.  
Huan Kuan, *Discourses on Salt and Iron: A debate on state control of commerce and industry in ancient China*, chapter I-XXVIII, tr. Esson M. Gale (selected chapters)

Week 8  Canonization of Classics

1) DISCUSSION SECTION III  
2) The Five Classics  

Week 9  SPRING RECESS
Week 10  Emergence of New Alternatives
1) “Learning of Mystery”
2) Coming of Buddhism

Week 11  “Chinese” Buddhism
1) Sinicization of Buddhism: Doctrines and Practices
2) DISCUSSION SECTION IV

Week 12  Neo-Confucianism: Rediscovery of Confucian Learning
1) Key Concepts of Neo-Confucianism
2) Zhu Xi and Wang Yangming: Intellectualism and Intuitivism
Peter Bol, Neo-Confucianism in History (Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2009), chapters 5 and 6.

Week 13  Confucian Statecraft in Later Imperial China
1) DISCUSSION SECTION V
2) Radical Reforms, Conservative Reactions and an Overhaul of Confucian Statecraft

Week 14  Modern Fates of Confucianism: Denunciation and Rehabilitation
1) “A death of Confucius will save the nation”: The May Fourth Movement and the Cultural Revolution

2) Confucian Fervor in the late 20th century

Week 15 Review
DISCUSSION SECTION VI
Wrap-up