

Chinese Intellectual History

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 rich and 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 70 pages a week and to develop a skill of thinking through primary sources and of evaluating the quality of scholarly works. *Basic background knowledge of Chinese history is strongly recommended. If you believe that you do not know enough about the ABC of Chinese history, read Ebrey textbook first.

Instructor: Sukhee Lee; sukhlee@rci.rutgers.edu 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 002F (College Avenue Campus)

Office hour: Monday 3:00-4:00

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

Patricia Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, 2nd edition (Cambridge University Press, 2010) **ISBN-13:** 978-0521124331

William Theodore de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, **2nd edition** (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000) **Make sure that you buy the 2nd edition.** Used paper back is widely available at online bookstores from around \$15.00.

William Theodore de Bary et al., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 2, **2nd edition** (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000)

These books have been ordered at Rutgers University Bookstore. They are also available at many online bookstores such www.amazon.com and www.bookfinder.com

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

**Additional readings might be provided as well.

Grading

Class attendance and participation (attendance 10% and participation 10%)	20%
5 response papers based on primary source analysis	25%
4 Quizzes	20%
Final paper (double-spaced, typed, and 8-9 page)	35%

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. **TAKE THIS WARNING SERIOUSLY**. As for the Rutgers policies on academic integrity, see <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

Jan. 18 Course Introduction: Why Intellectual History? Why China?
Quentin Skinner, “Meaning and understanding in the history of ideas,” in *Visions of Politics*, vol. 1 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 57-89.
Benjamin Schwartz, “A Brief Defense of Political and Intellectual History: The Case of China,” in *China and Other Matters* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1996), pp. 30-44.

Week 2

Jan. 23 Tradition of Sage Kings
de Bary, pp. 29-40.
Ebrey, pp. 10-35.
Karen Turner, “Sage Kings and Laws in the Chinese and Greek Tradition,” in *Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilization*, edited by Paul S. Ropp (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990): 86-111.

Jan. 25 Confucius, the First Teacher
de Bary, pp. 44-63, pp. 184-189.
Frederick Mote, *Intellectual Foundations of China*, pp. 26-46.

Week 3

- Jan. 30 Mozi, the Consequentialist
de Bary, pp. 66-76.
Mote, pp. 77-86.
- Feb. 1 Laozi
de Bary, pp. 79-94.
Mote, pp. 59-73.

Week 4

- Feb. 6 **DISCUSSION SECTION 1**
- Feb. 8 Yang Zhu and Zhuangzi
de Bary, pp. 96-111, pp. 263-268.
"Yang Zhu chapter in the Liezi," translated by Wing-tsit Chan.
Mote, pp. 73-76, pp. 92-94.

Week 5

- Feb. 13 Mencius: In Defense of Confucian Ideals (1)
de Bary, pp. 116-158, pp. 161-183.
Mote, pp. 46-58, pp. 94-95.
- Feb. 15 Xunzi: In Defense of Confucian Ideals (2)
de Bary, pp. 161-183.
Mote, pp. 94-95.

Week 6

- Feb. 20 **DISCUSSION SECTION 2**
- Feb. 22 Sunzi and Han Feizi: Art of War and Art of Bureaucracy
de Bary, pp. 199-206, pp. 216-223.
Ebrey, pp. 38-59.
Mote, pp. 103-114.

Week 7

- Feb. 27 **DISCUSSION SECTION 3**
- March 1 Legitimation of Empire
Selections from the *Huainazi*, pp. 48-76, pp. 295-339.
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

- March 6 The Five Classics
de Bary, pp. 269-273, pp. 278-282.
Ebrey, pp. 60-85.
Selections from the Five Classics
Michael Loewe, "Confucian' Values and Practices in Han China," *T'oung Pao* 98.1 (2012), pp. 1-30.
- March 8 **DISCUSSION SECTION 4**

Week 9 SPRING RECESS

March 13 **NO CLASS**

March 15 **NO CLASS**

Week 10

March 20 The Coming of Buddhism

de Bary, pp. 420-432.

Ebrey, pp. 86-107.

“Heart Sutra (Xin jing),” translated by Stephen Teiser.

Ming-wood Liu, “Seng-chao and the Madhyamika Way of Refutation.” *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 14 (1987): 97-110.

March 22 Sinicization of Buddhism: Doctrines

de Bary, pp. 446-458, pp. 494-504.

Ebrey, pp. 108-135.

Week 11

March 27 Sinicization of Buddhism: Practices

Stephen Teiser, *The Ghost Festival in Medieval China* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988), pp. 196-213.

March 29 **DISCUSSION SECTION 5**

Week 12 11th Century “Renaissance”

April 3 Wang Anshi and Sima Guang: State Activism and Political Conservatism

de Bary, pp. 621-26.

Peter Bol, “Government, Society, and State: On the Political Visions of Ssu-ma Kuang and Wang An-shih,” in *Ordering the World: Approaches to State and Society in Sung Dynasty China*, ed. Robert P. Hymes and Conrad Schirokauer (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993): 128-92.

Anthony Sariti, “Monarchy, Bureaucracy, and Absolutism in the Political Thought of Ssu-ma Kuang,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 32.1 (1972): 53-76.

April 5 Su Shi: Why Write?

Su Shi, “Rhapsody on Red Cliff,” translated by Ronald Egan (*Word, Image, and Deed in the Life of Su Shi*, 222-223); “On Analogies for the Sun” (Egan, 54-55); “Letter to Zhang Lei,” (Egan, 63-64); “Eight Poems on the East Slope,” translated by Alice Cheang

Michael Fuller, “Pursuing the Complete Bamboo in the Breast: Reflections on a Classical Chinese Image for Immediacy,” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 53.1 (Jun., 1993): 3-25

Week 13

April 10 **DISCUSSION SECTION 6**

April 12 Zhu Xi’s Completion of Neo-Confucianism

de Bary, pp. 699-714, pp. 721-754.

Ebrey, pp. 136-161.

Selections from Zhu’s commentary on the *Great Learning*

Week 14

- April 17 Wang Yangming and His Followers
de Bary, pp. 842-874.
Ebrey, pp. 190-216.
Lo Ch'in-shun, "Two Letters to Wang Yang-ming," in *Knowledge Painfully Acquired*, pp. 175-188.
Wang Yang-ming, "Letter in Reply to Vice-Minister Lo Cheng-an," in *Instructions for Practical Living*, pp. 157-165.
Julia Ching, "The Goose Lake Monastery Debate (1175)," *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* (March 1974), pp. 161-178.
- April 19 **DISCUSSION SECTION 7**

Week 15

- April 27 "A death of Confucius will save the nation": The May Fourth Movement
de Bary (II), pp. 353-356, pp. 366-368, pp. 378-381, pp. 388-389.
Lu Xun, "Kung I-chi (= Kong Yiji)," a three-page novella by Lu Xun, available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1919/03/x01.htm> (*Lu Xun was no Marxist)
Theodore Hutters, "The Closing of the Confucian Perspective in China," in *Rethinking Confucianism: Past and Present in China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam*, eds. Benjamin Elman, John Duncan, and Herman Ooms (Los Angeles: UCLA Asia Institute, 2002).
- April 29 Confucian Fervor in the late 20th and early 21st century
de Bary (II), pp. 558-564, pp. 574-583.
Song Xianlin, "Reconstructing the Confucian Ideal in 1980s China: The "Culture Craze" and New Confucianism," in *New Confucianism: a critical examination*, ed. John Makeham (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).
Ebrey, pp. 294-332.

Week 16

- May 1 Wrap-up
May 10 Final Paper due