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

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 20%
attendance 10% and participation 10%
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?

Week 2
Jan. 23 Tradition of Sage Kings
de Bary, pp. 29-40.
Ebrey, pp. 10-35.
Jan. 25 Confucius, the First Teacher
de Bary, pp. 44-63, pp. 184-189.
Week 3
Jan. 30 Mozi, the Consequentialist
d Bary, pp. 66-76.
Mote, pp. 77-86.
Feb. 1 Laozi
d Bary, pp. 79-94.
Mote, pp. 59-73.

Week 4
Feb. 6 DISCUSSION SECTION 1
Feb. 8 Yang Zhu and Zhuangzi
d Bary, pp. 96-111, pp. 263-268.
Mote, pp. 73-76, pp. 92-94.

Week 5
Feb. 13 Mencius: In Defense of Confucian Ideals (1)
Mote, pp. 46-58, pp. 94-95.
Feb. 15 Xunzi: In Defense of Confucian Ideals (2)
d 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
Ebrey, pp. 38-59.
Mote, pp. 103-114.

Week 7
Feb. 27 DISCUSSION SECTION 3
March 1 Legitimation of Empire
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
d Bary, pp. 269-273, pp. 278-282.
Ebrey, pp. 60-85.
Selections from the Five Classics
March 8 DISCUSSION SECTION 4
Week 9  SPRING RECESS  
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.  

March 22  Sinicization of Buddhism: Doctrines  
de Bary, pp. 446-458, pp. 494-504.  

Week 11  
March 27  Sinicization of Buddhism: Practices  

Week 12  11th Century “Renaissance”  
April 3  Wang Anshi and Sima Guang: State Activism and Political Conservatism  
de Bary, pp. 621-26.  

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  

Week 13  
April 10  DISCUSSION SECTION 6  
April 12  Zhu Xi’s Completion of Neo-Confucianism  
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.  

April 19  DISCUSSION SECTION 7

Week 15  
April 27  “A death of Confucius will save the nation”: The May Fourth Movement  
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](http://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1919/03/x01.htm) ("Lu Xun was no Marxist")  

April 29  Confucian Fervor in the late 20th and early 21st century  
de Bary (II), pp. 558-564, pp. 574-583.  
Ebrey, pp. 294-332.

Week 16  
May 1  Wrap-up  
May 10  Final Paper due