

Traditions Into Dialogue

Confucianism and Contemporary Virtue Ethics

An NEH Summer Seminar for 2008

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Tentative TEXTUAL SEMINAR SCHEDULE

We will meet M, W, F mornings from 9:30 to noon in the Mary Houghton Freeman Seminar Room of the Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies.

(Various other translations of our texts, and of other texts by our authors, will be available for participants to consult.)

Preliminary Background

Ivanhoe, *Confucian Moral Self-Cultivation* is brief and clear, and covers all our thinkers. Highly recommended.

Week 1 (July 7-): Confucius (Kongzi) and the *Analects*

Texts: Lau, trans., *Analects*; Ames & Rosemont, trans., *The Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation*; Brooks & Brooks, trans., *The Original Analects*

M: Humaneness (*ren*) and the *junzi* (Books 1-2; 4-9)

W: Ritual and governance (Books 3, 10-20)

F: Confucian virtue; textual issues (Brooks & Brooks, all)

Week 2 (July 14-): Mencius (Mengzi)

Text: Lau, trans. *Mencius*; David S. Nivison, "On Translating Mencius," in Van Norden, ed., *The Ways of Confucianism* (La Salle, IL: Open Court Press, 1996).

M: Political context and moral psychology (Books 1A – 3B)

W: Education and virtue (Books 4A – 6B)

F: Conflicts and harmony (Books 7A – 7B)

Week 3 (July 21-): *Xunzi*

Text: Hutton, trans., *Xunzi* (draft translation in progress; distributed at seminar)

M: Moral psychology and Heaven (chs. 23, 22, 17)

W: Self-cultivation and moral epistemology (chs. 1, 2, 21)

F: Justification for ritual and music, and relation to human virtue (chs. 19, 20, 9)

Week 4 (July 28-): Zhu Xi

Text: Gardner, trans., *Learning to be a Sage*; Wittenborn, trans., *Further Reflections on Things at Hand*

M: Metaphysics and epistemology (*Further Reflections*, pp. 59-103)

W: Moral education (*Learning*, pp. 88-162)

F: The virtues (*Learning*, pp. 163-96)

Week 5 (August 4-): Wang Yangming

Text: Chan, trans., *Instructions for Practical Living*

M: Knowledge, action, and perception (pp. 3-87)

W: Selfishness and *liangzhi* (pp. 131-49, 272-280)

F: The virtues and the good life (pp. 118-24, 239-45, 298-306)

Week 6 (August 11-): Dai Zhen

Text: Ewell, trans., *Evidential Commentary on the Meaning of Terms in Mencius*

M: Critique of predecessors (pp. 99-125 and 167-208)

W: Moral psychology (pp. 126-66 and 231-55)

F: Morality and virtue (pp. 302-21 and 384-91)