What is the best way to live an ethical life? How does one make ethical choices? What can a state do to create a just society? And what should we concretely do to live in a fuller and more inspiring way? Questions such as these were at the heart of philosophical debates in China. The answers that classical Chinese thinkers developed in response to these questions are among the most powerful in human history. Whether one agrees with them or not, they should be studied and taken seriously by anyone who cares about ethics, politics, and living a more flourishing life.

The course will focus on close readings of the primary texts themselves, in translation. No previous knowledge of Chinese philosophy or history is assumed. There will be two lectures and one discussion section per week. The lectures will both provide students with the necessary background for reading the texts and introduce students to the major issues concerning each text. In the discussion sections, we will analyze the texts themselves in detail.

Requirements:
1. Attendance at lectures (M and W at 10AM)
2. Participation in discussion sections (W, Th and F)
3. One 4-6 page paper, due Oct 17 by 4PM
4. One 6-8 page paper, due Nov 21 by 4PM
5. Three-hour final exam

Grading:
Section participation (25%)    First paper (20%)
Second paper (25%)            Final exam (30%)

Required texts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/31 Introduction to course</td>
<td>No readings</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 2    | 9/5 LABOR DAY (NO LECTURE)  
9/7 The “Axial Age” in China | No readings |
| 3    | 9/12 Confucius  
9/14 Ritual and Ethics | The Analects (*RCCP*, pp. 1-57) |
| 4    | 9/19 The *Mozi*  
9/21 Implications of Mohist Arguments | *Mozi* (*RCCP*, pp. 59-113) |
| 5    | 9/26 Mencius  
| 6    | 10/3 Laozi: *Daode jing*  
10/5 Politics and Mysticism | *Laozi*, *Daodejing* (*RCCP*, pp. 161-205) |
| 7    | 10/10 COLUMBUS DAY (NO LECTURE)  
10/12 The Rise of Self-Cultivation Techniques: The “Inward Training” | The “Inward Training” (Harold Roth, *Original Tao*, pp. 46-97) |
| 8    | 10/17 Zhuangzi  
10/19 The Ethics of Spontaneity | *Zhuangzi* (*RCCP*, pp. 206-253)  
**10/17 PAPER 1 DUE BY 4PM** |
| 9    | 10/24 Xunzi  
10/26 Morality as Artifice | *Xunzi* (*RCCP*, pp. 206-253) |
| 10   | 10/31 The Emergence of Legalism  
11/2 The *Book of Lord Shang* | Selections from the *Book of Lord Shang*  
(Canvas) |
| 11   | 11/7 NO LECTURE  
11/9 Theories of Statecraft: Han Feizi | *Han Feizi* (*RCCP*, pp. 311-361) |
| 12   | 11/14 The Emergence of Empire  
11/16 Debating Empire | Selections from the *Huainanzi* and the memorials of Dong Zhongshu (Canvas) |
| 13   | 11/21 Responses to Empire  
11/23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (NO LECTURE) | No readings  
**11/21 PAPER 2 DUE BY 4PM** |
| 14   | 11/28 Summary and Conclusions  
11/30 Review Session | No readings |