



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Taiwan Program, Summer 2027

ARC 401 - Topics: This Is The Way: Classical Chinese Thought

Instructor: J. L. Richey

Email: richeyj@bereda.edu

Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: This course offers an overview of four major traditions in classical (c. 500s-200s BCE) Chinese thought: Confucianism, Mohism, Daoism, and Legalism. Through close reading and discussion of excerpts from seven foundational texts (the *Lunyu* 論語 or *Analects*, *Mozi* 墨子, *Mengzi* 孟子 or *Mencius*, *Laozi* 老子 or *Daodejing* 道德經, *Zhuangzi* 莊子, *Xunzi* 荀子, and *Hanfeizi* 韓非子) in English translation, students will learn to identify, compare, and evaluate basic arguments about the universe, human nature, and morality that define traditional Chinese intellectual culture and continue to influence Chinese society today, especially in Taiwan.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to (a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and (b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

- Students will acquire analytical vocabulary and cultural and historical background knowledge necessary for identifying and contextualizing classical Chinese thought.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to compare and contrast at least two major strands of classical Chinese thought using primary source material in translation as evidence.
- Students will participate in debate while adopting the perspectives of specific, opposing classical Chinese thinkers.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

1. **Introduction to Classical China** -- read "Introduction" in *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy* [hereafter abbreviated as RCCP -- see *Required Readings* below], ix-xvii
2. **Confucianism, part 1:** *Lunyu* 論語 or *Analects* -- read RCCP 3-5, 7-9 (excerpts from book 2), 12-15 (excerpts from book 4), 18-24 (excerpts from books 6 & 7)
3. **Confucianism, part 2:** *Lunyu* 論語 or *Analects* -- read RCCP 31-37 (excerpts from books 11 & 12), 40-50 (excerpts from books 14-17)
4. **Mohism:** Mozi 墨子 -- read RCCP 57-59, 85-89 (chapter 26), 103-108 (chapters 35 & 39)
5. **Confucianism, part 3:** *Mengzi* 孟子 or *Mencius* -- read RCCP 119-122 (section 1A1), 128-133 (sections 1B8, 2A2, 2A6), 146-153 (sections 6A1-6A6, 6A8, 7A1-7A4, 7A7, 7A15, 7A17)
6. **Daoism, part 1:** Laozi 老子 or *Daodejing* 道德經 -- read RCCP 171-174 (chapters 1-3), 176-177 (chapters 8 & 10), 180-182 (chapters 16-21), 184-186 (chapters 25 & 28), 191-193 (chapters 40 & 43), 196 (chapter 52), 198-199 (chapter 56), 206 (chapter 70), 208-210 (chapters 78 & 80-81)
7. **Daoism, part 2:** *Zhuangzi* 莊子 -- read RCCP 223-226 (chapter 1), 232-234, 238-241 (excerpts from chapters 2 & 3), 249-253 (chapter 6), 255-256, 259-261 (excerpts from chapter 17 & 18), 263-264 (chapter 22)
8. **Confucianism, part 4:** *Xunzi* 荀子 -- read RCCP 269-270, 288-297 (chapter 19), 310-317 (chapter 23)
9. **Legalism:** *Hanfeizi* 韓非子 -- read RCCP 323-324, 328-333 (chapter 6), 357-371 (chapter 49)

5. Required Readings: Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden, eds., *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, 3rd ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2023) -- ISBN 9781647921088 (paperback edition is **required**)

6. Graded Assignments:

- **Notes on assigned readings** (submitted to instructor in hard copy -- printed or handwritten) = 5% of course grade (pass/fail) x 5 = 25% of course grade
- **Participation in debate** (as part of team assigned to represent one of the four traditions studied in class) = 25% of course grade (letter-graded using rubric)
- **Comparative analysis essay** (handwritten during class period) = 25% of course grade (letter-graded using rubric)

- **Field laboratory report** (completion of hard-copy questionnaire based on observation of classical Chinese ideas in action within Taiwan context) = 25% of course grade (pass/fail)

Letter-graded work will be graded on this scale:

91 – 100 = A
 81 – 90 = B
 71 – 80 = C
 61 – 70 = D
 Below 61 = F

This course will be graded on this basis, without regard to other scales (i.e., plus-and-minus) which may apply at your college or university. *Note that KIIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter grades.*

7. Generative AI Policy:

Generative AI is permitted/encouraged in some ways, with proper attribution, but prohibited in other ways.

Students are allowed to use Generative AI in some ways but are prohibited from using it in other ways. Keep in mind that any content produced by generative AI can “hallucinate” (produce false information), so students are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of any AI-generated content. Examples of citing AI are available at: <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>.

Students are permitted to use generative AI in the following ways:

- Brainstorming: You may use generative AI to stimulate creativity, generate ideas, or brainstorm topics for papers, presentations, and discussions. The generated content must serve as a steppingstone, not a final product.
- Citation Assistance: AI tools can be used to manage, format, and organize citations and references, promoting adherence to academic writing standards and specific style guides required for individual assignments.
- Grammar and Style Checking: AI-powered writing enhancement tools may be used to help with spelling, grammar, syntax, and stylistic errors.
- Concept Understanding: Generative AI can be used to explain or simulate concepts taught in class, aiding in a deeper understanding.
- Research Assistance: AI can be used to conduct initial research, compile data, and summarize articles, books, or papers. It should not replace traditional research methods but rather enhance them.

You may not use generative AI in coursework in the following ways:

- Plagiarism: Using AI-generated content as your original work without attribution. This includes essays, papers, presentations, and exam answers.
- Data Manipulation: Using AI tools to alter data or create misleading information.
- Misrepresentation of Skills: Using generative AI to complete tasks that are meant to assess your knowledge and skills.
- Confidentiality Breach: Using AI tools that might violate KIIS/university policies or laws related to data privacy and confidentiality.

Metacognitive Reflection. In addition to a proper citation, the student should include the following statement with any assignment where generative AI is used for assistance.

"I used generative AI [INSERT NAME OF PLATFORM] for assistance in the following ways on this assignment: [INSERT WAYS USED, such as brainstorming, citation assistance, grammar and style checking, concept understanding, and research assistance, etc.]."

8. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

9. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

10. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with

dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.

