



INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE PHILOSOPHY

PH 247/RN 244 | SPRING 2016 | MWF | 2:00-3:00 PM | KCB 102
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The classical period in China's ancient philosophical tradition is sometimes known as the *baijia*, or "Hundred Schools" era, a name that vividly conveys the richness, vitality, and plurality of the philosophical scene. In this course, we will explore some of the principal texts and figures of the time, including Kongzi (Confucius) (c. 551-479 BCE), Mozi (c. 480-390 BCE), Mengzi (Mencius) (4th century BCE), Zhuangzi (late 4th century BCE), and Xunzi (late 4th-early 3rd century BCE). Ancient Chinese thinkers engaged in profound investigations and lively debates centered on the "Way" (*dao*), i.e., the pattern of a life well lived. Topics discussed will range across the nature of moral virtues, political and social order, music, religious ritual, moral education, the ethics of war, and the fundamental character of human nature.

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