



Understanding Chinese Philosophy in Business

Module Code	-	Program Level	MBA, graduate level
Target Students	<i>MBA, Master-level students</i>	Total Credits	<i>1</i>
Semesters	<i>Fall Semester 2025</i>	Prerequisites	-
Instructor 1	<i>Associate Professor JIFEN LI</i>	E-mail	<i>lijifen@ruc.edu.cn</i>
Office Location	<i>Rm411, Renwen Building, RUC</i>	Phone	

Office hours/ Appointment Procedures	<i>Appointment by email</i>
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Course Description	<p>This course is an introduction to major historical, philosophical, religious, and cultural background information about Chinese studies by focusing mainly on Confucianism and Daoism. It analyzes some of the basic concepts and conceptual frameworks of the Confucianism and Daoism and involves the case studies of these Chinese studies in business ethics, policy making, and business model innovation and so on. During the lectures and discussions, the students will be challenged to reflect on and argue about these theory and key concepts of Chinese philosophy (focusing mainly on Confucianism and Daoism) and how they have been exercised in business that stimulate strategic decision-making in firms.</p>
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Aims & Objectives	<p>This course will introduce the theory and key concepts of Confucianism and Daoism, together with the global and local business cases studies included by the course script and the assigned readings. Each session will involve assigned readings and cases.</p> <p>Additionally, since the course assumes that skills gained in the classroom can transfer to the “real world,” there is a strong emphasis on the analysis of complex international business problems through the preparation, team presentation and discussion of a variety of case studies as well as</p>
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	<p>the discussion of current events impacting global business strategies.</p> <p>Students will learn about the mindsets and skills essential to their interactions with China, which will be one of their core competences in doing business in China and beyond.</p>
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Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possess an understanding of Chinese business culture, acquainted with the current thinking and practices in formulating and implementing global strategies; • Be able to evaluate globalization strategies in the context of current developments. • Grab the opportunity to interact with the scholars in this field.
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Grading System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Case Presentation & Written Summary</i> 40 % • <i>Class Participation & In-Class Discussion</i> 20 % • <i>Final paper</i> 40 %
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Outline of Teaching Schedule	Lecture	Readings/Cases
09. Oct., 2025	An Introduction to Chinese philosophy (Introduction)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chenyang Li, <i>Reshaping Confucianism</i> (Introduction and Chap.1) • Jee Loo Liu, <i>An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy</i> • Case studies: Evolution of Fotile's vision and mission from 1998-2018 • W20246; CB0140
16, Oct., 2025	Benevolence and Leadership in Confucianism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ni Peimin, <i>Understanding the Analects of Confucius</i> • Chenyang Li, <i>Reshaping Confucianism</i> (Chap.2)
		Case studies: W20246;CB0140
23, Oct., 2025	Rituals in Confucianism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Book of Rites</i> • Chenyang Li, <i>Reshaping Confucianism</i> (Chap.3)
		Case Studies: W20246;CB0140



30, Oct., 2025	The Efficacy of Human Action_From <i>Daodejing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Daodejing</i>• Franklin Perkins, <i>Heaven and Earth are not Humane: The problem of Evil in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case Studies: W20246;CB0140

Method of Class Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lectures (online, via zoom), animated course materials• In-class discussions with case assignments distributed in advance• Group presentations <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All course materials will be provided online allowing for individual preparation and follow-up.• The course is held in an interactive format, with students responsible for preparing scheduled materials. Case assignments will be given to student teams and these take the form of a class-presentation analyzing the respective case. For all classes, readings associated with the course will be assigned to all students. The expectation is that these materials be fully prepared.• Participants should come to each class ready to open the discussion, just as they would be prepared when attending a business meeting. Students are encouraged to take a critical view of the topics discussed and contribute their own experience. In this context, counter-examples or counter-ideas are very much appreciated.• Faculty feedback on in-class presentations will include suggestions for polishing presentations and presentation quality; these elements, as well as content will be considered in the overall grading process.
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Course Materials Required	N/A
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Reading List Recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Li Chenyang, <i>Reshaping Confucianism</i>, Oxford, 2024.● JeeLoo Liu, <i>An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy-From Ancient Philosophy to Chinese Buddhism</i>, Blackwell Publishing,● Franklin Perkins, <i>Heaven and Earth are not Humane: The problem of Evil in Classical Chinese Philosophy</i>, Indiana, 2024.● Classics such as <i>Analects</i>, <i>Book of Rites</i>, <i>Daodejing</i>
Bio	http://phi.ruc.edu.cn/jszy/ljf_jszy/ljf_grjj/34791821ea9a4d288684fe855f5bf01b.htm