

Spring 2017
PHIL 2205, Section 01
First Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, at least six pages in length, on one of the following topics – preferably the one that you find the most interesting. Revise your work carefully, and remember to cite your sources correctly using APA, MLA, or Chicago guidelines. Your typed and stapled essay is due at the beginning of class on Monday, March 20th.

1. Who was Confucius, and what are the key themes in Confucian philosophy? Is Confucianism relevant today? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your critical discussion.
2. Who was Mozi, and what are the key themes in Mohist philosophy? Is Mohism relevant today? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your critical discussion.
3. Who was Yang Zhu, and what are the key themes in his egoist philosophy? Is egoism relevant today? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your critical discussion.
4. Who was Mengzi, and what are the key themes in his approach to Confucianism? Is this philosophy relevant today? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your critical discussion.
5. What was the “School of Names,” and how did they use puzzles and paradoxes? Is this unique movement relevant today? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your critical discussion.
6. What is the *Daodejing*, and what are its key themes? Is this influential text relevant today? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your critical discussion.
7. Who was Zhuangzi, and what are the key themes in his skeptical/relativist philosophy? Is this philosophy relevant today? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your critical discussion.
8. Who was Xunzi, and what are the key themes in his approach to Confucianism? Is this philosophy relevant today? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your discussion.