

Ancient Chinese Philosophy: Genealogical Background

❑ Four Books: 4 Classics of the Confucian School

- [1] 论语 *The Analects of Confucius* (compiled by Lun Yü)
- [2] 孟子 *Mencius* (Mencius, 371-289 B.C.E.)
- [3] 大學 *The Great Learning* (between 500 and 200 B.C.)
- [4] 中庸 *The Doctrine of the Mean*

❑ Three Scriptures

- [1] 易經 *Yijing* (the book of changes); Daoist Orientation¹
- [2] 禮記 *Liji* (the record of the rites); Confucian
- [3] 道德經 *Daodejing* (The way and its power); Daoist

❑ Canonical Figures and their Genealogy²

- [1] 孫子 Sunzi/Sun Tzu (BC 6c): *Sun Tzu Bing-far* (General Sun Tzu's *Art of War*)
Cf. the Late Spring and Autumn Period, 770-476 BC
- [2] 孔子 Kongzi/Confucius/Confu Tzu (BC 6-5c): cf. the Confucian Canon
- [3] 老子 Lao Tzu (BC 6-5c); cf. Three scriptures
- [4] 孟子 Mengzi/Menicus (BC 3-4 c): the most prominent disciple of Confucius
- [5] 莊子 Zhuangzi/Chuang Tzu (BC 3-4 c): the most prominent disciple of Lao Tzu
- [6] 荀子 Xunzi/Hsün Tzu (BC 3-4 c): critically recalibrating Confucianism

¹ Some scholars categorize it as a Confucian text – part, therefore, of the “Five” great books.

² “Jesus was followed by St. Paul, Socrates by Plato, Confucius by Mencius, and Lao-tse by Chuangtse. In all four cases, the first was the real teacher and either wrote no books or wrote very little, and the second began to develop the doctrines and wrote long and profound discourses. Chuangtse, who died about 275 B.C., was separated from Lao-tse's death by not quite two hundred years, and was strictly a contemporary of Mencius. Yet the most curious thing is that although both these writers mentioned the other philosophers of the time, neither was mentioned by the other in his works.” <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/taoism/cz-text1.htm>