Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy – 19 December 2023

- Regarding ChatGPT:
  - If you have used (even partially) ChatGPT in preparing your answer, you *must* disclose that you are assisted by ChatGPT.
  - Please note that I myself have already run ChatGPT using these questions. So I know what kind of responses are produced by ChatGPT. You must be aware of this.
- The duration of the examination is 75 minutes.
- You may freely consult any materials in your possession (including dictionaries and online resources) during the examination.
- On each Answer sheet, you must write your **student number only**. Please do **not** write your name, your major subject or any other information which may identify you.
- You must answer the following two (2) Questions. They have an equal weight in assessment. There is no length restriction for your answers.

[1] Question 1 (50 points)

Compare the following two passages and explain the Confucian concept of learning (學 xue):

- The Master said, "A noble man will eat but not seek to bloat out. He will have a dwelling but not seek comfort. He will be swift in his conduct but cautious with his words. What he does is in accordance with the Way and upright. You can say that such a person is fond of learning." 子曰：「君子食無求飽，居無求安，敏於事而慎於言，就有道而正焉，可謂好學也已。」(Analects 論語, 1.14)
- Where does the learning begin? Where does it end? Speaking of the method of learning, it begins with reciting canonical texts and ends with reading the records on Li (禮). Speaking of the purpose of learning, it begins with becoming an officer and ends with attaining the Sainthood. – Xun Zi 荀子 (c. 310-238 BCE, a Warring States period author), Recommendations for learning 勸學 12.

[2] Question 2 (50 points)

Explain the meaning of 仁 (ren) taking account of the following divergent translations:

子曰：「當仁不讓於師。」(Lun Yu, 15.36)

- The Master said, "When encountering matters that involve the question of humaneness, do not yield even to your teacher." (A's translation)
- The Master said, "If you have ethical integrity, you would not yield to an army of 2500 soldiers." (K's translation)