

Course TITLE: The Chinese Taoist Classic “HuainanZi” : Introduction and Interpretation

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Course Overview:

Huainanzi, a wonderful work in ancient Chinese ideological culture, is also the most outstanding cultural representative of Chinese Taoist thought in Han dynasty.

Born in Huainan city, Anhui province in China, it was compiled by Liu An, the well-known king of Huainan state in the early western Han dynasty, and the prominent scholars organized by him. As a feudatory King who lived through the glorious time of the development of the western Han dynasty, Liu An put forward a relatively ideal solution of the administration of the country for the good development of the western Han dynasty, taken Taoism as its dominant ideas and meanwhile absorbed and integrated with hundreds of ideas from Confucianism, Mohism, Legalism, Yin and Yang, represented by the pre-qin scholars.

Huainanzi theories are the summary of huang Lao political experience, including a variety of theories of cosmology, state administration, human nature, health maintenance and the society and so on. These fully embody the ideological wisdom of Chinese Taoist "laissez-faire" theory.

Until today, it still has profound theoretical significance, playing a positive and enlightening role in the sound development of modern human civilization. Therefore, huainanzi is not only the magnum opus of Chinese Taoism but also the treasure of ideology and culture in the east Asian.

Grading:

Attendance 20%;

Assignments 20%;

Presentation 30%;

Exam 30%