

HKU03x Humanity and Nature in Chinese Thought

Week 8: Xunzi and Legalism (Han-Fei-zi)

Section 9: The rest of the story--Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism

- Buddhism was introduced into China at the end of the Han Dynasty, around 200 A.D.
- Buddhism is characterized by two ideological forms: the Indo-European supernatural-natural distinction, and Hindu atheism.
- The Daoist system of Buddhism in China is called 禪 pronounced as “Chan” in Chinese, “Sim” in Cantonese, and “Zen” in Japanese.
- The Tang Dynasty was pretty much dominated by Buddhism. Towards the end of the Tang, an intellectual form of Confucianism was reborn, with the primary focus on Mencius.
- Neo-Confucianism has two versions: one is a relatively conservative version that believes in empirical science; another emphasizes the equality and blending of knowledge and action.