

PHILOSOPHY 301

Spring 2021

Symposium on the Xun Zi

Friday, February 12

Questions to discuss:

Human Nature

What do you think about the difference between Meng Zi and Xun Zi's view of human nature (*xing* 性)? How does Xun Zi try to convince us that human nature is detestable, and that goodness (*shan* 善) is the result of artifice (*wei* 偽)? How relevant is this today?

Ethical Philosophy

How does Xun Zi think that one's influential character (*de* 德) can be cultivated and developed? How relevant is this today?

Political Philosophy

What do you think of Xun Zi's view that instead of force rulership should be based on exercising benevolence (*ren* 仁), acting honorably (*yi* 義), following norms of ritual propriety (*li* 禮), and depending on one's resultant influential character (*de* 德)? How relevant is this today?

Putting Pattern on the World

What do you think of Xun Zi's emphasis that without us Heaven and Earth (*tiandi* 天地) have no pattern (*li* 理), and thus it is up to us to give pattern to the world? How relevant is this today?