

# Philosophy Distinguished Visitor:

## Kwong-loi Shun

### Vice President and Professor of Philosophy University of Toronto

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#### What is Confucianism?

Wednesday, January 18, 2006, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Location: [Bourns, Marlan & Rosemary Hall](#) A265

Contrary to what the term “Confucianism” might suggest, the values that Confucian thinkers advocate did not originate with Confucius but are rooted in a tradition that pre-dates Confucius. However, Confucius did play a central role in the evolution of Confucian thought. The lecture presents some of the core ideas of Confucian ethical thought, including the Confucian ethical ideal and the conception of self-cultivation. The focus of this lecture is more on early Confucian thought, while the second lecture will elaborate on some of the central themes in later Confucian thought.



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#### 'Wholeness' & 'Purity' in Confucian Thought

Thursday, January 19, 2006, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Location: [Engineering 2](#) 205-206

This lecture discusses some of the central themes in later Confucian thought, with focus on Zhu Xi of the twelfth century. ‘Wholeness’ of the mind involves the complete orientation of the mind in an ethical direction, while ‘purity’ of the mind involves the absence of any element that might detract from this complete orientation. To attain such a state, one has to engage in careful inner management of the mind’s activities. The discussion of these themes also provides a context for a discussion of certain methodological issues related to the study of comparative ethics.

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Open to: Public

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