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# Teaching The I Ching (Book Of Changes) (AAR Teaching Religious Studies)



## Synopsis

Chinese traditional culture cannot be understood without some familiarity with the I Ching, yet it is one of the most difficult of the world's ancient classics. Assembled from fragments with many obscure allusions, it was the subject of ingenious, but often conflicting, interpretations over nearly three thousand years. *Teaching the I Ching (Book of Changes)* offers a comprehensive study at a time when interest in Asian philosophy and the culture of China is on the rise. Still widely read in China, it has become a countercultural classic in the West. Recent scholarship has radically altered our understanding of this foundational work. Geoffrey Redmond and Tze-Ki Hon present an up-to-date survey of recent studies including reconstruction of the early meanings, excavated manuscripts, the New Culture Movement, and the Cultural Revolution. To facilitate introducing the classic to students, the necessary background is provided for university teachers and students, even non-China specialists. The teaching approaches described will foreground the otherness of the classic, yet engage the interests of twenty-first-century students. Rather than dismissing the text's popular association with divination, they explain why this mode of human thought has persisted for millennia. Thus, Redmond and Hon mediate between the two extreme views of the classic: a source of timeless ancient wisdom on the one hand, and a historical curiosity on the other. *Teaching the I Ching (Book of Changes)* makes this important classic accessible to a broad readership, thus providing a crucial service for those interested in China, early civilization, and world religion. Now anyone with a serious interest can understand a text that continues to have a decisive influence on Chinese and world culture three thousand years after its original composition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Teaching the I-Ching (Book of Changes) is a reliable road-map for students to navigate the intriguing intellectual terrain of the ancient Chinese Classic, detailing the historical background and the text's structure and content. Redmond and Hon's narratives are readable, and their scholarship underpins the accessible translation. This book should serve as an important reference book for undergraduates, graduates, and general readers, who want to explore the multifarious and mysterious world of 'Changes.'"--Dennis K. H. Cheng, Chair Professor of Cultural History, Hong Kong Institute of Education; European Chair of Chinese Studies, Leiden University; Professor of Chinese Literature, National Taiwan University

"A magnificent achievement, offering a well-written and judicious synthesis of existing scholarship on the origins, development, and transnational travels of the I Ching. In addition, Redmond and Hon offer their readers insightful suggestions about how to understand and productively use this fascinating document-not only in the classroom but also beyond."--Richard J. Smith, author of *The I Ching: A Biography*

"The uniqueness of this book is its combination of scholarly rigor with a willingness to explore the phenomenology of divination practice. It is an excellent history of the I Ching as a book, including the ways it has been interpreted both in China and the West up to the present day. The two chapters (1 and 11) that 'cross the great water' into divination practice do so without 'going overboard' into the trendy realm of popular I Ching enthusiasm."--Joseph A. Adler, author of *Reconstructing the Confucian Dao: Zhu Xi's Appropriation of Zhou Dunyi*

"These authors provide a judicious, illuminating account of this classic Chinese text. Teaching the I Ching is a valuable reference for scholars and students alike, and a superb sourcebook for teaching the I Ching at the undergraduate level."--Harold C. Washington  
Saint Paul School of Theology

Geoffrey Redmond's dual background is in textual criticism, which he studied at the University of Virginia under the eminent philologist Fredson Bowers, and biomedical science, which he studied at Columbia and Rockefeller Universities. His research concerns systematic cosmological thought in the ancient and modern world, using the ancient Zhouyi as a primary source. His six published books include *Science and Asian Spiritual Traditions*. He has lectured extensively in Asia, Europe, and North America. Tze-ki Hon is Professor of History at the State University of New York at Geneseo. He is the author of *The Yijing and Chinese Politics: Classical Commentary and Literati*

Activism in the Northern Song Period, 960-1127. His articles and book reviews have appeared in the American Historical Review, China Review International, Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy, Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of Chinese Philosophy, Journal of Chinese Studies, Modern China, Monumenta Serica, and Philosophy East and West

It is unfortunate that the reviews for Kindle and print editions are not separated. A reader left a one-star review of a badly flawed Kindle edition, and they may well be justified. But the paper edition is really a very good summary of Yi Jing studies for a teacher wanting to tackle the subject. I have studied the Yi, off and on, all my life, so a lot of things in this book were familiar. But the pleasant format, excellent writing and well thought out divisions of the work made it a pleasure to read.

I have bought the kindle version of this book. This is not a real kindle. I mean, the book is not reflowable, so it makes it very heavy and difficult to read on a tablet or a phone. This is the only reason for my very bad review.

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