**In-Class Essay Test: Tuesday, October 4th  50 pts**

For this assignment you will compose an essay examining **one** of the following poems. Your essay should include an interpretation of the poem itself, an explanation of the Asian philosophical system you feel it best fits under, and an explanation of your interpretation. To receive full credit, you must use evidence from the poem itself (i.e. quotes).

You *may* use one single-sided 3x5 note card with notes/quotes to prepare evidence for your essay. You *may also* use a printed and annotated copy of your chosen poem if you choose to do so. You may *not* write out your essay on the note card, it should be reserved exclusively for notes. Prepare as much or as little as you see fit. See me with any questions.

**POEM OPTIONS:**

**On an Autumn Evening in the Mountains**

Wang Wei

How clear are the mountains after the new rain!

The dusk of the Autumn evening is pouring, in,

As moonbeams filter through the pine trees.

Cool spring-water flows over white stones.

A lone washing-girl returns homeward by the bamboo grove.

The boatman sails his barge through the lotus patch.

Although Spring is long gone

Why cannot I linger over this pleasant view?

**Sent to Li Po as a Gift**

Tu Fu

Autumn comes,

We meet each other.

You still whirl about as a thistledown in the wind.

Your Elixir of Immortality is not yet perfected

And, remembering Ko Hung, you are ashamed.

You drink a great deal,

You sing wild songs,

Your days pass in emptiness.

You nature is a spreading fire,

It is swift and strenuous.

But what does all this bravery amount to?

**Spring Dawn**

Tu Mu

Sleeping in spring oblivious of dawn

everywhere I hear birds.

After the wind and rain last night

I wonder how many petals fell.