Yale-NUS to offer Chinese studies

LIBERAL arts courses tend to favour Greek philosophers, but at Yale-NUS College, students will get to read not only Aristotle but Confucius too.

When the college opens next year, it will launch an undergraduate programme in Chinese culture and civilisation, and offer a professorship in China and Chinese studies.

A Yale-NUS spokesman said these are “key improvements” to its proposed liberal arts curriculum, and would help it meet a growing demand for liberal arts education in Asia.

The liberal arts school is a collaboration between the National University of Singapore and America’s Yale University.

The programme and professorship were created after it received a $5 million gift from the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation.

As part of the partnership between the foundation and the college, a public lecture on Chinese history was held at NUS yesterday. The lecture was attended by about 100 prospective students of the college, as well as students and academics from other universities.

Ms Chew Gek Khim, the deputy chairman of the foundation, said it would also link Yale-NUS with other institutions supporting Chinese studies.

This would enable the college to have a “pivotal role in perpetuating knowledge and understanding of China”, she said.

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