

PHI 1413 Philosophies of Life

H05 LSB C4
H03-04 LSB C5

Teacher: Prof. WANG Qingjie

I. Course Description:

人生哲學的課程目標在於引導學生理解人生哲學基本問題，概念與原理，並學習如何運用這些概念原理對我們當前面臨的社會人生道德問題進行哲學性的分析和思考。

The aim of “Philosophies of Life” is to help students to understand important theories and ideas in philosophies of life. Students will learn how to use these ideas and theories in thinking and analyzing contemporary social, ethical and political issues in our everyday life.

II. Tentative topics to be discussed in the class (selective):

1. Religious life and philosophical life
2. Are we born selfish?
3. Does morality depend on culture?
4. Greatest happiness for greatest number
5. Being moral is a duty for a human being
6. Confucian theory of love and human nature
7. Marx and alienation of human life
8. Justice, fairness and liberal democracy
9. Meaning of life and death
10. Human cloning and the limit of sciences and technology
11. Human dignity, pornography and sexual relationships
12. Family values: parents and children, husband and wife
13. Human being, animal and natural environment
14. Legal punishment and death penalty
15. Freedom of speech and lawful society

III. Tentative Assessment Method:

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| 1. In class discussion and presentations | 30% |
| 2. Midterm exam | 30% |
| 3. Term paper or final examinations | 40% |

References:

1. Plato Five Dialogues, (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1987)
2. Plato Republic, (Basic Books, 1968)
3. Immanuel Kant Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals, (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993)

4. John Stuart Mill *Utilitarianism*, (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1979)
5. John Stuart Mill *On Liberty*, (Arlington Heights: Harlan Davison, Inc., 1947)
6. Confucius 論語
7. Mencius 孟子
8. Karl Marx *The Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, (New York: International, 1964)
9. K. Marx and F. Engels *The Communist Manifesto*, (New York: International Pub. 1948)
10. John Rawls *A Theory of Justice*, (Cambridge: Harvard Univ.Press, 1971)
11. Francis J. Beckwith *Do the Right Thing*, (Boston, Jones & Bartlett, 1996)
12. James Rachels *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 1999)
13. Barbara MacKinnon *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues* (Boston: Wadsworth Pub., 1998)
14. Judith A. Boss *Analyzing Moral Issues*, (London: Mayfield Pub., 1999)