

PHIL5180/5170 Special Seminar on Selected Philosophical Issues

(2nd Term, 2010-11)

F 09-10 TCW 203

Shun Kwong-loi

From Philology to Philosophy

The seminar will focus on the transition from textual studies to philosophical investigation in the study of Confucian ethical thought. It will discuss methodological issues involved in the transition, and will illustrate the proposed approach with a discussion of a range of philosophical issues related to a central theme in Confucian ethical thought. It will draw on ideas from Confucian texts and from contemporary western philosophical discussions. Some of the topics from Confucian thought to be discussed include 义 命 诚 虚 静 公 私 敬 慎独 , and some of the philosophical issues to be discussed include: self-regard, anger and resentment, purity, equanimity, and self-centeredness.

Participants are expected to write a paper on a topic related to the seminar in consultation with the instructor. In addition to attending the seminar presentations and reading related writings by the instructor, they will conducted research into primary texts in Chinese thought as well as literature in contemporary western philosophical discussions in relation to the topic they have chosen for the term paper.