

PHIL1110A Introduction to Philosophy

Teacher: Prof. Wong Kai Yee

LEC: W07-09 LSK 302

TUT: M06 CKB UG04

- This course is a general introduction to philosophical methods and problems.
- My goal is to:
 - ◇ Introduce you to the pleasures and importance of philosophical reflection on things that matter in life, such as knowledge, rationality, god, values, art, identity, the place of mind in the world, and the meaning of life.
 - ◇ Help you gain a basic familiarity with a wide range of topics and subfields in the subject.
 - ◇ Help you develop skills in critical and philosophical enquiry, specifically the ability to think logically and critically, and the ability to interpret, analyze, and generate philosophical arguments.
 - ◇ Demonstrate how philosophical thinking can make a distinctive contribution to your understanding of yourself, others, and the world.
- Our mode of teaching/learning is: reading, thinking, discussing, and writing. You are expected to:
 - ◇ Study the readings assigned and try to think through them;
 - ◇ Attend *all* lectures/tutorials and arrive *prepared* to discuss the readings and participate in class discussion.

Topics:

I. Introduction

1. What is philosophy? Why study it?

II. God, Mind, and Soul

2. Faith & Reason: *Can you prove that God exists?*
3. Mind & Machine: *Can machines have minds?*

4. Self, Person & Identity: *Who am I?*

III. Knowledge and Rationality

5. Dream & Skepticism: *Does the external world really exist?*

6. Paradigm of Conceptual Analysis: *What is knowledge?*

7. Confirmation & Black Swans: *What is Hume's problem?*

8. Prisoner's Dilemma & Origin of Virtues: *When is it rational to cooperate?*

IV. Values, Morality, and Meaning of Life

9. Subjectivism & Relativism: *Are there objective values?*

10. Acting Morally: *Is what is moral what has the best consequences?*

11. Ethics & Society: *When is the politically correct not morally correct?*

12. Meaning of Life: *Is there such a thing?*

Assessment:

Tutorial participation, short essays, take-home final examination

References:

General only. Suggested readings for each topic will be provided in lecture notes.

Blackburn, Simon	The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy
Blackburn, Simon	Think
Blackburn, Simon	Being Good: A short Introduction to Ethics
Cahn, Steven	Exploring Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology
Cornman, J.W., <i>et al.</i>	Philosophical Problems and Arguments: An Introduction
Craig, Edward	The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy (On-line version available in campus network.)
Gale, Eric	The Blackwell Guide to Metaphysics
Geoffrey, Thomas	An Introduction to Ethics
Goldstein, Laurence	The Philosopher's Habitat
Hamilton, <i>et al.</i>	Readings for an Introduction to Philosophy
Hollis, Martin	Invitation to Philosophy
Honderich, T.	Philosophy Through Its Past
Honderich, T. & Burnyeat, M.	Philosophy As It Is
Hospers, J.	Introduction to Philosophical Analysis
Hospers, J.	Readings in Introductory Philosophical Analysis
Dancy, Dancy	Contemporary Epistemology
Kahane, Howard	Logic and Philosophy

Kahn, Steven	Exploring Philosophy
Magee, Bryan	The Great Philosophers
McGinn, Colin	The Characters of Mind
Nagel, Thomas	What Does It All Mean?
Noaick, Robert	Philosophical Explanation
Singer, Peter	How are we to live?
Pojamn, Louis	Philosophy: The Pursuit of Wisdom (2 nd ed.)
Pojman, Louis	Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings
Trigg, Roger	Philosophy Matters
朱熹	四書集注
勞思光	中國哲學史（一～三上下）
馮友蘭	中國哲學史新編