

PHIL4323 Philosophy of History 歷史哲學
Course Outline

Time :	F 8:30-11:15	Location :	MMW 707
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Course overview

This course introduces philosophical reflections on history. It divides into two parts: (1) deals with questions in the logic of historical thinking, such as the objectivity of historical knowledge, the concept of causation in history, the nature of historical explanation; (2) discusses various attempts to arrive at a metaphysical interpretation of history, for example Hegel's and Marx's theories of history.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes

1. Grasp the contribution of philosophical reflections of history to the understanding of the human condition.
2. Acquire a critical view on theories proposed by various philosophers of history.
3. Grasp the contribution of philosophy of history to reflections on intercultural understanding.
4. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics

1. What is philosophy of history?
2. Historical explanation
3. Historical understanding
4. Truth and fact in history
5. Can history be objective?
6. The laws of history
7. Speculative philosophy of history: Kant and Herder
8. Speculative philosophy of history: Hegel
9. Speculative philosophy of history: Karl Marx

Learning activities

In this course, you are expected to

- read and think about the assigned readings;
- develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing (examination essays and critical discussion of tutorial readings);
- attend *all* lectures/tutorials to participate in discussion.

Activities and workload:

In-class (mandatory):

1. Lecture: 1.5 hours each week.
2. Interactive tutorial: 1.5 hour session every week.

Out-of-class (average workload per week):

1. Reading: 4–5 hours on the basic and suggested readings, 2–3 hours on tutorial reading assignments and presentation.
2. Essays: an average of 2–3 hours each week on preparing and writing essay assignments throughout the term. You should try to design a schedule that allows you to apportion more time on writing and discussing your essay with your tutor/teacher two to three weeks before each essay is due.

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
One Term Essay	3000 – 5000 words	40% of overall mark
Two Discussion Notes on tutorial readings	Each around 1000 words	30% of overall mark
Class Participation	The class participation portion of your grade will be based on regular class attendance and participation as well as on in-class individual or small group presentations. In addition, you will be expected to participate actively in on-line discussions via facebook. Two absences are allowed during the semester, each additional absence will lower your class participation grade by one letter grade. More than six absences and/or failure to complete any of the written assignments detailed below are grounds for failing this course.	30% of overall mark

Recommended learning resources

Required Readings :

Lemon, M. C. (2003), *Philosophy of History: A Guide for Students* (New York: Routledge).

Tucker, Aviezer (2009), *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*, (West Sussex: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.)

Walsh, W. H. (1967), *Philosophy of History: An Introduction*, Revised edition, (New York and Evanston: Harper Torchbooks, Harper & Row, Publishers).

Supplementary Readings :

Ankersmit, Frank (2001). *Historical Representation* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press).

Aron, R. (1976) [1938]. *Introduction to the Philosophy of History: An Essay on the Limits of Historical Objectivity*, trans. G. J. Irwin (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press).

Atkinson, R. (1978). *Knowledge and Explanation in History* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press).

Berlin, I. (1974). "Historical Inevitability," in *Four Essays on Liberty* (London, 1969), pp. 51–81.

Carr, E. H. (1961). *What Is History?* (New York: Random House)

Cohen, G. A. (2001). *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence*, 2nd edn. (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Collingwood, R. G. (1994). *The Idea of History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)

Danto, A. (1965). *Analytical Philosophy of History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Donagan, Alan (1964) . "Historical Explanation: The Popper-Hempel Theory Reconsidered," *History and Theory*, Vol. 4, No. 1 , pp. 3-26.

Dray, W. (1993). *Philosophy of History*, 2nd edn. (Upper Saddle River NJ: Prentice-Hall).

Dray, William (1957). *Laws and Explanation in History* (London: Oxford University Press).

Dray, William (1995). *History As Re-enactment: R. G. Collingwood's Idea of History* (Oxford: Clarendon Press)

Dray, William (ed.) (1966). *Philosophical Analysis and History* (New York: Harper & Row).

Gallie, W. B. (1964). *Philosophy and the Historical Understanding* (London: Chatto and Windus).

Gardiner, Patrick (ed.) (1959). *Theories of History* (Glencoe, IL: Free Press).

Gardiner, Patrick (ed.) (1974). *The Philosophy of History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Goldstein, L. (1976). *Historical Knowing* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press).

Graham, Gordon (1983). *Historical Explanation Reconsidered* (Aberdeen: Aberdeen University Press).

Hacking, Ian (2002). *Historical Ontology* (Cambridge, MA/London: Harvard University Press).

Hegel, G. W. F. (1984a). *Lectures on the Philosophy of World History*, trans. H. B. Nisbet, intro. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Hempel, C. G. (1965). *Aspects of Scientific Explanation* (New York: Free Press).

Iggers, Georg (1968). *The German Conception of History: The National Tradition of Historical Thought from Herder to the Present* (Hanover, NH: Wesleyan University Press).

Jaspers, K. (1953) [1949]. *The Origin and Goal of History*, trans. M. Bullock (New Haven, CT: Greenwood Press).

Kant, Immanuel (1970). Hans Reiss (ed.), *Kant: Political Writings* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Loewith, K. (1948). *Meaning in History: The Theological Presuppositions of the Philosophy of History* (Chicago, IL: University of the Chicago Press).

Mandelbaum, Maurice (1977), *The Anatomy of Historical Knowledge* (Baltimore and London: The John

Hopkins University Press).

Martin, R. (1977). *Historical Explanation: Re-enactment and Practical Inference* (Ithaca, NY/London: Cornell University Press).

Murphey, M. (1994). *Philosophical Foundations of Historical Knowledge* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press).

Pompa, L. (1990). *Human Nature and Historical Knowledge* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Tucker, A. (2004). *Our Knowledge of the Past: A Philosophy of Historiography* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Winch, Peter (1958). *The Idea of a Social Science and Its Relation to Philosophy* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul).

Wright, Georg Henrik von (1971). *Explanation and Understanding* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press).

Course schedule [you may want to modify the format of this part to suit your needs; e.g., a separate, detailed list for tutorials might be preferred]

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	What is philosophy of history?	Walsh, W. H. (1967): Chapter 1		
2	Historical explanation	Walsh, W. H. (1967): Chapter 2	Donagan, Alan (1964) . “Historical Explanation: The Popper-Hempel Theory Reconsidered,” <i>History and Theory</i> , Vol. 4, No. 1 , pp. 3-26.	
3	Historical understanding	Tucker, Aviezer (2009): Chapter 11	Dray, William (1995). <i>History As Re-enactment: R. G. Collingwood’s Idea of History</i> , pp. 32-66.	
4	Truth and fact in history	Walsh, W. H. (1967): Chapter 4	Collingwood, R. G. (1994) . “Historical Evidence,” in the Epilegomena to <i>The Idea of History</i> , pp. 249–82.	
5	Can history be objective?	Walsh, W. H. (1967): Chapter 5	Mandelbaum, Maurice (1977), <i>The Anatomy of Historical Knowledge</i> , pp.145-194.	
6	The laws of history	Tucker, Aviezer (2009): Chapter 13	Berlin, I. (1974). “Historical Inevitability,” in <i>Four Essays on Liberty</i> , pp. 51–81.in <i>Four Essays on Liberty</i> , pp. 51–81.	
7	Speculative philosophy of history: Kant and Herder	Walsh, W. H. (1967): Chapter 6	Kant, Immanuel (1970). “Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose,” in Hans Reiss (ed.), <i>Kant: Political Writings</i> , pp. 41–53.	
8	Speculative philosophy of history: Kant and Herder	Tucker, Aviezer (2009): Chapter 41	Kant, Immanuel (1970). “Reviews of Herder’s Ideas on the Philosophy of the History of Mankind,” in Hans Reiss (ed.), <i>Kant: Political Writings</i> , pp. 201–20.	
9	Speculative philosophy of history: Hegel	Lemon, M. C. (2003): Chapter 9	Hegel, G. W. F. (1984a). <i>Lectures on the Philosophy of World History</i> , trans. H. B. Nisbet, intro. [selected]	
10	Speculative philosophy of history: Hegel	Lemon, M. C. (2003): Chapter 9	Hegel, G. W. F. (1984a). <i>Lectures on the Philosophy of World History</i> , trans. H. B. Nisbet, intro. [selected]	
11	Speculative philosophy of history: Karl Marx	Lemon, M. C. (2003): Chapter 10	Cohen, G. A. (2001). <i>Karl Marx’s Theory of History: A Defence</i> , 2nd edn. [selected]	
12	Speculative philosophy of history: Karl Marx	Lemon, M. C. (2003): Chapter 10	Cohen, G. A. (2001). <i>Karl Marx’s Theory of History: A Defence</i> , 2nd edn. [selected]	

Details of course website

We use Moodle for this course. Relevant announcements and course documents (e.g., lecture notes) will be posted regularly on the website.

Feedback for evaluation

1. Students are welcome to give feedback on the course at any time. They can do so by communication to teacher or tutor in class, by email, posting comments and questions to the eLearning platform, or during tutorials.
2. As with all courses in Philosophy Department, students evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term.

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
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