

PHIL3800 Metaphysics 形上學
Course Outline

Time :	F 9:30-11:15	Location :	LSK 306
Tutorial time to be arranged			

Course overview

This course discusses some central problems in metaphysics and reflects on the nature of metaphysics. Topics include: the foundation of metaphysical questioning in Parmenides, Being and appearance in Plato, Being and becoming in Aristotle, Descartes and the metaphysics of subjectivity, Hume's challenge to metaphysical inquiry, Kant and the recommencement of metaphysics, metaphysics and the quest for absolute knowledge in Hegel, personal identity, the mind-body problem, free will, and causation.

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

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the connection between metaphysical issues and other philosophical issues.
2. Grasp the major themes in metaphysics.
3. Understand the relevance of metaphysical issues to/for the contemporary human setting.
4. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics

- 一) 引言：形上學的當代厄運與歷史回溯
- 二) 形上學發問的奠基性開端：巴門尼德斯「存在就是不變」之論旨
- 三) 存在(being)與表象(appearance)的對揚：柏拉圖「存在就是理型」之學說
- 四) 存在與變化的探究：亞里士多德「存在就是實體」之理論
- 五) 思維作為確認存在的法則：笛卡兒與主體性形上學的興起
- 六) 休謨對形上學的挑戰
- 七) 客觀知識的可能性與人類理性的界限：康德與形上學的再出發
- 八) 形上學與絕對知識的追索：黑格爾的「辯證法體系」
- 九) 尼采對西方形上學的總體批判及其後果：人之形上學性向的再認識
- 十) 總結：有沒有所謂「後形上學」的時代？

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Weight
期終試	45%
導修	25%
書面報告	30%

Recommended learning resources

基本參考書

A. 原始資料：

1. Hoy, Ronald C. & Oaklander, L. Nathan (eds.). *Metaphysics: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1991).
2. De George, Richard T. (ed.) *Classical and Contemporary Metaphysics: A Source Book* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1962).
3. Drennen, D. A. (ed.), *A Modern Introduction to Metaphysics: Readings from Classic and Contemporary Sources* (New York: The Free Press of Glencoe, 1962).
4. Plato, *The Republic*, Eng. trans. Desmond Lee (Harmondsworth: Penguin Classics, 2nd ed. 1974, additional revisions 1987).
5. Descartes, *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, Vol. II, Eng. trans. J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff & D. Murdoch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984).
6. Leibniz, *Selections*, ed. Philip P. Wiener (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1951).
7. Nietzsche, F. *Twilight of the Idols*, Eng. trans. Richard Polt (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., Inc., 1997).
8. Merleau-Ponty, M. *Sense and Non-Sense*, Eng. trans. Hubert L. Dreyfus and Patricia A. Dreyfus (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1964).

B. 其他參考資料：

1. Adorno, Theodor W. *Metaphysics: Concepts and Problems*, Eng. trans. E. Jephcott (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000).
2. Beck, L. J. *The Metaphysics of Descartes* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1965).
3. Cristaudo, Wayne. *The Metaphysics of Science and Freedom. From Descartes to Kant to Hegel* (Aldershot: Avebury, 1991).
4. Dougherty, Kenneth F. *Metaphysics: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Being* (New York: Graymoor Press, 1965).
5. Grondin, Jean. *Introduction to Metaphysics: from Parmenides to Levinas* (Columbia University Press, 2012).
6. Heidegger, Martin. *An Introduction to Metaphysics*, New Eng. trans. G. Fried and R. Polt (New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2000).
7. Heidegger, Martin. *Kant and the Problem of Metaphysics*, Eng. trans. Richard Taft (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1990).
8. Heidegger, Martin. "The Onto-theo-logical Constitution of Metaphysics", in *Identity and Difference*, Eng. trans. J. Stambaugh (New York: Harper & Row, 1969), pp. 42-76.
9. Houlgate, Stephen. *Hegel, Nietzsche and the Criticism of Metaphysics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986).
10. Körner, Stephan. *Metaphysics: Its Structure and Function* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984).
11. Lefranc, Jean. *La métaphysique* (Paris: Armand Colin, 1998).
12. Parkinson, G. H. R. (ed.) *The Renaissance and 17th Century Rationalism (Routledge History of*

Philosophy Vol. 4 (London & New York: Routledge, 1993).

13. Saville, Anthony. *Leibniz and the Monadology* (London & New York: Routledge, 2000).
14. Solomon, Robert C. & Higgins, Kathleen M. (ed.) *The Age of German Idealism (Routledge History of Philosophy Vol. 6)* (London & New York: Routledge, 1993).
15. 曾仰如 編著：《形上學》（台北：台灣商務印書館，1971）。
16. 黃慶明：《形上學講義》（台北：洪葉文化事業有限公司，2000）。

- 每章均另有相關講授大綱及附加參考資料

導修閱讀材料：

1. a. Plato, *The Republic*, Bk VI & VII, 502c-521b, Eng. trans. Desmond Lee, Harmondsworth: Penguin Classics, 2nd ed. 1974, pp. 239-264.
b. i. Aristotle, “The study of Metaphysics”, in Drennen, *A Modern Introduction to Metaphysics: Readings from Classic and Contemporary Sources*, pp. 29-35.
ii. Aristotle, “The Nature and Function of Metaphysics”, in De George (ed.), *Classical and Contemporary Metaphysics: A Source Book*, pp. 4-7.
iii. Aristotle, “Being and Substance”, in Drennen, *A Modern Introduction to Metaphysics: Readings from Classic and Contemporary Sources*, pp. 363-374.
2. a. René Descartes: “1st, 2nd, 3rd & 6th Meditations”, in *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, Vol. II, *op. cit.*, pp. 12- 36, 50-62.
b. David Hume: “Of Personal Identity, in De George, Richard T. (ed.) *Classical and Contemporary Metaphysics: A Source Book*, pp. 216-224.
3. Immanuel Kant: “Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics”, excerpts, in Hoy & Oaklander (ed.), *Metaphysics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, pp. 424-449.
4. G. W. F. Hegel: “Excerpts from the Introduction and Logic Section of *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences in Outline*”, in Hoy & Oaklander (ed.), *Metaphysics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, pp. 450-466.
5. a. Nietzsche, From *Twilight of the Idols*, Eng. trans. Richard Polt, pp. 12-24, 30-37.
b. Merleau-Ponty, M. “The Metaphysical in Man”, in *Sense and Non-Sense*, pp. 83-98.

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

Teacher	
Name:	Lau Kwok-ying
Office location:	Room 427, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 7140
Email:	kylau@cuhk.edu.hk