

**PHIL5370 Seminar: Issues in the History of Western Philosophy  
(On the Good Life: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle)  
西方哲學史專題研討  
Course Outline**

<b>Time :</b>	<b>H 18:30-21:15</b>	<b>Location :</b>	<b>YIA LT5</b>
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**Course overview**

Socrates: "...that the really important thing is not to live, but to live well." (Plato: Crito 48b) Since Socrates the problems of what a good life is and how to live it have been the key issues in Western philosophy. This seminar will be a philosophical reflection on the meaning of good life, morality and happiness based on closed reading of the texts on Socrates, Platonic dialogues and works of Aristotle. Students are expected to study the original text intensively and to participate in discussion.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Identify and articulate some major problems and issues in the history of Western Philosophy.
2. Demonstrate a solid grasp of the issues discussed.
3. Analyze and critically interpret some historical significant texts in Western philosophy.
4. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to conduct independent research on the topics covered and related issues.

**Assessment scheme**

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Mid-term Paper		40%
Final Paper		60%

**Recommended learning resources**

**Original Texts:**

Plato and Xenophon: *Apologies*  
 Platonic Dialogues: *Crito, Phaedo, Symposium and Republic*  
 Aristotle: *On the Soul, Nicomachean Ethics and Politics*

**Major References:**

1. Engberg-Pedersen. *Aristotle's Theory of Moral Insight*. Oxford: Claredon Press, 1983
2. Dover, K.J. *Greek Popular Morality in the Time of Plato and Aristotle*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company:1974.
3. Guthrie, W.K.C. *A History of Greek Philosophy*. Volumes III, IV, V and IV. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1971 – 1981
4. Hadot, Pierre. *Philosophy as a Way of Life*. trans. Michael Chase. Oxford: Blackwell, 1995
5. Hadot, Pierre. *What is Ancient Philosophy*. trans. Michael Chase. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002.
6. Nussbaum, Martha. *The Fragility of Goodness*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,1986
7. Wolz, Henry G. *Plato and Heidegger*. Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press, 1981

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

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Cheung Chan-fai
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	