

PHIL1110B
Introduction to Philosophy

Course Outline

Time: Lecture: Tuesday, 14:30-16:15	Location: YIA 505
Tutorial: Tuesday, 16:30-17:15	Location: YIA 505

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the discipline of philosophy as it has unfolded in Western civilization from the time of the ancient Greeks through the modern era. Given the length of time involved, and the great variety of thinkers and schools of thought that arose and fell therein, covering the Western philosophical tradition in its entirety would prove an impossible task. We will, therefore, only examine those thinkers whose contribution proved indispensable to Western philosophical thought as a whole. This, however, still leaves us with a large amount of material to cover and so we shall narrow our scope further by zeroing-in on the following themes: metaphysics (knowledge of what lies behind the world), epistemology (how we come to know the world), mind and soul (what defines us as humans), and ethics (what makes us good humans). No previous knowledge of Western philosophy is required to take this course.

Learning Outcomes

1. Become familiar with key philosophical concepts, arguments, and movements.
2. Develop your skill in reading philosophical texts.
3. Develop your critical thinking skills by discussing lecture materials in tutorials.
4. Learn how to research and write philosophical papers.

Topics

1. The Rise of Philosophy
2. What is Existence and Knowledge?
3. On God, Freedom, and Becoming Good
4. Logic, Language, and the Mind
5. The Will, Utilitarianism, and Politicizing the Self

Learning Activities

- You are expected to carryout the following duties:
1. Read and give thought to the assigned readings
 2. Develop the skills mentioned above in the Learning Outcomes
 3. Attend class lectures and tutorials and contribute to the discussion at hand

Assessment Scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Tutorial Attendance	Attendance	10%
In-Class Test	50-minutes, 3 rd hour of week 6	25%
Research Essay	5-page long Essay	25%

Examination	End of Semester Exam	40%
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Notes:

1. Tutorial Grade: Marks are awarded for both attendance and participation.
2. In-class Test: During the third class hour of week 6 there will be a 50-minute long test. The format will be a mix of identification questions and an essay of approximately 125 words (half a page).
3. Research Essay: A list of topics will be given in week 9. Lateness will result in a penalty of 5% per day.
4. Exam: The exam will occur during the official examination period (Dec 3-22). It will cover the entire course and will be comprised of essay questions. More will be said in class towards the end of the semester.

Learning Resources

Required Texts:

1. Kenny, Anthony. *A New History of Western Philosophy—In Four Parts*, 2012 Reprint. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. (*This is the single-volume version of what was previously four separate volumes. The content is the same in both versions but I will be citing page numbers from the single-volume edition).
2. Cahn, Steven, Ed. *Classics of Western Philosophy*, 8th Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2012.

Feedback for Evaluation

1. You are strongly encouraged to give feedback on the course via email or meeting with your professor.
2. Midway through the term, you will also be asked to provide feedback via a brief questionnaire on the course.
3. As with all courses in the Philosophy Department, you will evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the semester and by regular feedback you give to your Professor. This information is highly valued and is used to revise teaching methods, tasks and content.

Course Schedule

Week(s)	Lecture Topic(s)	Assigned Readings	Tutorial Topic	Remarks
1 (Sept 2)	Course Introduction; What is Philosophy?	Kenny: 8-57	No tutorial	
2 (Sept 9)	Public Holiday (no class)			
Part I: Fundamental Questions of Philosophy				
3-4 (Sept 16-23)	What is Existence?	Kenny: 160-182; 401-419; 636-658 Cahn: 243-274; 374-389; 641-661	Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> Leibniz, <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i>	
5-6 (Sept 30-Oct 7)	What is Knowledge?	Kenny: 118-142; 375-390; 588-623 Cahn: 80-96; 453-456	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> No Readings	In-Class Test (3rd hour of week 6)
7-8	Does God Exist?	Kenny: 183-203; 420-	Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i>	

(Oct 14-21)		448; 449-467; 659-684; 727-750 Cahn: 47-79; 229-242; 390-402; 405-427; 594-638; 734-785	Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i>	
9 (Oct 28)	Freedom and How to be Good	Kenny: 204-227; 449-467; 685-704 Cahn: 275-329; 459-478; 734-785; 834-926	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i>	Essay Topics Announced
Part 2: Contemporary Themes of Philosophy				
10 (Nov 4)	Logic and Language	Kenny: 829-864 Cahn: 1246-1265; 1336-1350	Wittgenstein, <i>Philosophical Investigations</i>	
11 (Nov 11)	Philosophy of Mind	Kenny: 901-922 Cahn: 1268-1278; 1292-1309	Russell, <i>The Problems of Philosophy</i>	
12 (Nov 18)	The Self and Truth	Kenny: 865-900 Cahn: 1169-1176; 1312-1319; 1321-1333	Schopenhauer, <i>The World as Will and Representation</i>	
13 (Nov 25)	Utilitarianism, Renunciation, and the Sublime	Kenny: 922-960 Cahn: 1179-1184; 1187-1219; 1229-1243	Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i>	
14 (Dec 2)	Political Philosophy	Kenny: 961-976 Cahn: 1220-1226; 1278-1289	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i>	Essay due in Class

* The above schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Details of Course Website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic_honesty/

With each assignment, you are required to submit a signed declaration accepting these policies, regulations, guidelines, and procedures. Your research essay must be submitted via VeriGuide, which will then issue you a receipt. This receipt must be submitted together with the printed copy of your paper or it will not be graded. Only submit the final version of your paper to VeriGuide.

Contact Details

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