The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Philosophy

Course Code: PHIL 4262
Course Title: Existentialism
Chinese Title: 存在主義
Course Outline 課程大綱

2014-15 Term 1

Time：T3-5   **Location：AIT G05**

Contact details for teacher(s)

Teacher	
Name:	王耀航 (WONG, Yiu-hong)
Office location:	Room 404, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 4717
Email:	yiuhongw@gmail.com

Course overview   :

本課主要介紹西方思潮中的存在主義思想之基本內容。眾所周知，存在主義是二十世紀中後期之一股狂飆，所產生的時代影響可謂無遠弗界。誠然，存在主義作為一種社會運動的思潮，其實早已結束，狂飆激起之波瀾亦趨平淡。日換星移，哲人英雄已作古。但存在主義曾經提出的各種論說，並且對人類存在意義之迫切關懷，其哲學及文化價值卻仍未退色。

存在主義哲學探討的焦點，集中於人類的存在處境問題，亦即關注人之存在意義。人生於世究竟為何？人若面對價值的虛無不定，應如何安頓自己的人生？個體要怎樣去活出真我？何謂真我？個人如何完善對自己的認識？ 本課將會追隨存在主義的思考蹤跡，分別探討與這些問題密切相關的核心意念，諸如：虛無、荒謬、恐懼、怖慄、焦慮、死亡、自欺、希望、自由、責任等。

另外，基於不同的哲學家自有其匠心獨具，本課亦就各家自圓其說，分別剖析個別哲學家的相關思想，從而梳理他們自身的思維特點。暫擬主力集中討論祈克果(Kierkegaard)、尼采(Nietzsche)、海德格(Heidegger)、沙特(Sartre)和卡謬(Camus)。

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

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the historical and cultural conditions of the emergence of the philosophies of existence.

2. Grasp the concepts and philosophical issues discussed by existential philosophers.

3. Acquire a critical view on the doctrines put forward by philosophers of existence.

4. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics

1. 存在主義哲學的思想背景 – 19-20 世紀文化與哲學處境, 存在主義哲學的核心問題

2. 尼采(Nietzsche)：形上學的克服、虛無主義(nihilism)、權力意志(will to power)、永劫回歸(eternal recurrence)

3. 祈克果(Kierkegaard)：恐懼(fear)、怖慄(trembling)、憂慮(anxiety)、死亡、抉擇、生命重整、個體存在

4. 海德格(Heidegger)：存在的意義問題、此在(Dasein)分析、此在與世界、憂慮、面向死亡、關切(Care)、時間性與關切、本己/真(authenticity)、

5. 沙特(Sartre)：「存在先於本質」、無(nothingness)、焦慮與自由、自由與責任、自欺(bad faith)

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 (short essays, final essays, and presentation, comment report of tutorial readings);

- attend *all* lectures/tutorials and participate in discussion.

Activities and workload :

In-class (mandatory):

1. Lecture: 2-3 hours for every week.

2. Interactive discussion: one 1-hour session every week starting from week 3.

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

1. Reading: 2–3 hours on the suggested readings, and 2–3 hours on required reading assignments every week.

2. Reading Report: an average of 2–3 hours each week on reading the required texts and preparing the report throughout the semester.

3. Essay: an average of 2–3 hours each week on reading the texts and preparing the essay throughout the semester.

Assessment scheme : tentative arrangement

Task nature	*Description*	*Weight*
閱讀報告	同學必須清楚理解閱讀材料*, 然後寫成一篇論述報告；報	35%

	告字數不少於 2000 字 *閱讀材料必須從 "***Required reading***", "***Topics***" 2 至 5, 五組文章中作選擇	
學期論文	不少於 3000 字，題目不得與閱讀報告選題重複	45%
參與課堂互動討論	課堂提問和討論 – 提出相關的問題，或具啟發性的反省，並且能夠有效回應教師於課堂的提問或討論	20%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

撰寫論文的有關指引將會在課堂中適當時間公佈

Recommended learning resources

原典資料 –

Charles Guignon, Derk Pereboom (ed.), ***Existentialism: basic writings***. Cambridge: Hackett, 2001.

Martin Heidegger, ***Being and Time***. Trans. by John Macquarrie & Edward Robinson. London : SCM Press, 1962.

_____, ***Pathmarks***. Ed. by William McNeill. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998

Soren Kierkegaard, ***The Concept of Anxiety***. Ed. and translated with introd. and notes by Reidar Thomte, in collaboration with Albert B. Anderson. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1980.

_____, ***Either/ Or: fragments of life***. Ed. and translated with introduction and notes by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1987.

_____, ***Fear and Trembling***. Trans. by Sylvia Walsh. New York : Cambridge University Press, 2006.

_____, ***Sickness unto Death***. Ed. and translated with introduction and notes by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1980.

_____, ***Concluding unscientific postscript to Philosophical fragments***. Ed. and translated with introduction and notes by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1992.

Gabriel Marcel, ***Being and Having: an existentialist diary***. Trans. by Katharine Farrer. New York: Harper & Row, Pub., 1965.

_____, ***The Mystery of Being***. Trans. by Rene Hague. Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1960.

_____, ***The Philosophy of Existentialism***. Trans. by Manya Harari. New York : Citadel Press, 1961.

Karl Jaspers, ***Existentialism and Humanism: three essays***. Ed. by Hanns E. Fischer ; trans by E. B. Ashton. New York: R. F. Moore Co., 1952.

_____, ***Reason and Existenz***. Trans., with an introduction by William Earle. London : Routledge & Kegen Paul, 1956.

_____, ***Philosophy***. (vol. 1-3) Trans. by E. B. Ashton. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969-1971.

Jean Paul Sartre, ***Being and Nothingness: an essay in phenomenological ontology***. Trans. / intro. by Hazel E. Barnes. New York: Citadel Press, 1968.

_____, ***Essays in Existentialism***. Ed. by Wade Baskin. New York: Citadel Press, 1979.

Robert C. Soloman (ed.), *Existentialism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

思想背景介紹 –

William Barrett, *Irrational Man: a study in existential philosophy*. New York: Doubleday, 1990.

Albert Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays*. Trans by Justin O'Brien. New York: Vintage Books, 1991.

Richard Kearney, *Modern Movements in European Philosophy*. 2nd edition. New York : Manchester University Press, 1994.

Richard Wolin, *The Terms of Cultural Criticism: the Frankfurt School, Existentialism, Post-structuralism*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1992.

通論及專題探討 (暫定) –

Thomas C. Anderson, *Sartre's Two Ethics: from authenticity to integral humanity*. Chicago: Open Court, 1993.

David E. Cooper, *Existentialism: a reconstruction*. Mass.: Blackwell Pub., 1999.

Thomas R. Flynn, *Existentialism: a very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Charles Guignon (ed.), *The Existentialists: critical essays on Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Sartre*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Pub., 2004.

Alastair Hannay, Gordon D. Marino (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Kierkegaard*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Christina Howells (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Sartre*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Bernd Magnus, Kathleen Higgins (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Nietzsche*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Hubert L. Dreyfus, Mark A. Wrathall (ed.), *A Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism*. Oxford: Blackwell Pub., 2006.

Jonathan Ree, Jane Chamberlain (ed.), *Kierkegaard: a critical reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998.

Jack Reynolds, *Understanding Existentialism*. Chesham: Acumen, 2006.

Mark Basil Tanzer, *On Existentialism*. Belmont, Calif, : Thomson Wadsworth, 2008.

Course schedule

Week	Topics	Required reading	Tutorials	Remarks
1-2	1	Thomas R. Flynn, *Existentialism: a very short introduction*		
3-4	2	*Twilight of the Idols, Thus Spoke*	相同	
5-7	3	*Fear and Trembling (1)* *Fear and Trembling (2)*	相同	

		Concluding Unscientific Postscript		
8-10	4	*Being and Time (1)* *Being and Time (2)* *Being and Time (3)*	相同	
11-13	5	*Being and Nothingness (1)* *Being and Nothingness (2)* *Existentialism is Humanism + Heidegger, Letter on Humanism*	相同	

Details of course website

We use Blackboard 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 eLearing 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.

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/academichonesty/

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.