

UGED2892 PHILOSOPHY OF TRAVEL 旅行哲學

Course Outline

Course overview

This course examines the philosophical reflection on travel in both Chinese and Western culture. It will provide students with a good understanding of the multifaceted relationships between travel and human existence from an interdisciplinary perspective. What make us go? How the travel or tourist experiences have been constructed? Topics to be discussed include: different forms of travel throughout history; mobility and the dynamics of space and time; the death of distance and the end of travel; nomad philosophy and the meaning of travel in the post-modern world.

本課程從跨學科與跨文化的角度探索旅行的哲學議題，例如，為甚麼要去旅行？旅行與觀光的經驗怎樣建構？本課程會討論歷史上各種不同的旅行模式；移動與時間空間互動的關係；距離之死與旅行的終結；游牧主義與後現代社會中旅行的意義。

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- (1) identify the impact of travel on individual life and the society at large;
- (2) critically analyse and evaluate how travel and tourism shape the making of modern world;
- (3) conceptualize various structures and forms of travel throughout history;
- (4) give insights on the implication of travel and tourism for the betterment of humankind and civilization;
- (5) cultivate intellectual interests in thinking about the relationship between travel and human value.

Topics

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Defining “Travel” and “Tourism”
- 1.2 Chinese Traditional Concept of Travel
- 1.3 Western Tradition Concept of Travel

2. Different Forms of Travel and Mobility Throughout History

- 2.1 Travel as Expedition
- 2.2 Travel as Pilgrimage
- 2.3 Travel as Missionary Quest
- 2.4 Travel as Exile
- 2.5 Travel as Escape
- 2.6 Travel as Self-Cultivation
- 2.7 Travel as Expression of Freedom
- 2.8 Travel as Transformation of Social Being
- 2.9 Travel as Consumerism

3. Philosophical Issues in Travel and Tourism

- 3.1 Motivation: Wonder, Exotics, Pleasure, Utopia, Beauty
- 3.2 Strangeness and Familiarity
- 3.3 Nature and Landscape
- 3.4 Leisure and Holiday

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| 3.5 | Home and At-homeness |
| 4. | The Tourist Gaze and the Construction of Travel Experiences |
| 4.1 | The Tourist Gazer and Gazee |
| 4.2 | The Subjective and Negotiated Characteristic of A Traveler's Experience |
| 4.3 | The Sociological Dynamics of Guest-Host Encounter |
| 5. | Mobility and the Dynamics of Space and Time |
| 5.1 | Transportation Before the Railroad: Wayfarer and Carriage |
| 5.2 | The Industrialization of Time and Space in the 19 th Century: Railroad Journey |
| 5.3 | Underground and Subway Vision |
| 5.4 | Aeroplane and Spaceship |
| 6. | Travel in the Post/Transmodern World |
| 6.1 | Mass Tourism: The New Colonialism |
| 6.2 | The Death of Distance, E-Tourism and the End of Travel |
| 6.3 | Nomadology and Nomad Philosophy |
| 6.4 | Human Existence and the Meaning of Travel |

Learning activities

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| <p>In this course, you are expected to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read and think about the assigned readings; • develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing (short essays, examination essays, and summaries of tutorial readings); • attend <i>all</i> lectures/tutorials to participate in discussion. <p><i>Activities and workload:</i></p> <p>In-class (mandatory):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: 2 hours each week. 2. Interactive tutorial: one 2-hour session every two weeks. |
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Assessment scheme

| <p>Since a major aim of this course is to develop students' ability to interpret, analyze, and generate philosophical arguments through discussion and writing, the assessment methods are designed to encourage participation in tutorial and learning through argumentative writing.</p> | | |
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| <i>Task nature</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Weight</i> |
| Tutorial participation | Discussion and presentation | 30% |
| Short Report 1 | 1,000–1,200 words | 15% |
| Short Report 2 | 1,000–1,200 words | 15% |
| Take-home examination | 3 essay type questions: 1 compulsory question and 2 selective | 40% |

Remarks:

1. Tutorial participation (1 briefing + 5 normal sessions): Grading is based on presentation and participation in discussion. *Absence will damage your grades:* your final score is calculated by multiplying your original score by $(1 - 0.2x)$, where x is the number of times of absence. Detailed guidelines on requirements and assessment method of tutorials will be provided in the briefing session.
2. The two short reports: Students may choose to write on any philosophical problem covered by the course up to relevant week.

3. Take-home final examination: Questions and instructions will be given to students after the last class session. Students will be given two weeks to submit their answers.

Recommended learning resource

- Adler, Elkan Nathan. (1930). *Jewish Travelers*. London: Routledge.
- Ateljevic, I., Pritchard, A & Margan, N. (eds.) (2007). *The Critical Turn in Tourism Studies: Innovative Research Methodologies*. Oxford: Elsevier.
- Camus, Albert. (1963). *Notebooks, 1935-1942*. New York: Knopf.
- Cormack, Bill. (1998). *A History of Holidays, 1812 – 1990*. London: Routledge/Thoemmes Press.
- Faullner, Bill, Gianna Moscardo & Eric Laws. (eds.) (2000). *Tourism in the Twenty-First Century: Reflections on Experience*. London: Continuum.
- Goeldner, Charles R., J. R. Brent Rickie & Robert W. McIntosh. (ed.) (1999). *Tourism: Principles, Practices, Philosophies*. New York: Wiley.
- Grosfoguel, R., Saldivar, J.D. & Torres, N.M. (eds.) (2007) *Unsettling Postcoloniality: Coloniality, Transmodernity and Border Thinking*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Mack, Arien. (ed.) (1993). *Home: A Place in the World*. New York: New York University Press.
- Pritchett, V.S. (1989). *At Home and Abroad: Travel Essays*. San Francisco: North Point Press.
- Parsons, Nicholas. (2007). *Worth the Detour: A History of the Guidebook*. Stroud: Sutton Pub.
- Stagl, Justin. (1995). *A History of Curiosity: The Theory of Travel, 1550-1880*. Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic Publisher.
- Sivantola, Jaako. (2002). *Tourist's Experience of Place*. Aldershot, Hampshire; Burlington, Vt: Ashgate.
- Tribe, John. (ed.) (2009). *Philosophical Issues in Tourism*. Bristol: Channel View.
- Urry, John. (1990). *The Tourist Gaze: Leisure and Travel in Contemporary Societies*. London, Newbury Park: Sage Publications.
- Williams, Carol Traynor. (1998) *Travel Culture: Essays on What Makes Us Go*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger.
- 江紹原《中國古代旅行之研究》，上海：商務印書館，1937。
- 彭修良、高玉《旅遊美學》，台北：五南出版公司，1995。
- 商友敬《山情水韻：中國遊覽文化》，上海：上海古籍出版社，1991。
- 王淑良《中國旅遊史》，北京：旅遊教育出版社，2007年。

Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents (e.g., lecture notes, reading/written assignments, tutorial topics and schedule, take-home examination) will be posted on Blackboard.

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

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| Teacher | WONG Kim Fan |
| Email: | kimfan@netvigator.com |

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.