

Course Code: PHIL 2302

Course Title: Guided Studies in Western Philosophical Classics

Chinese Title: 西方哲學原典導讀：盧梭《社會契約論》

Course Outline 課程大綱（暫定）

2015-16 Term 1

Time : W 3 - 5 Location : MMW 705

Contact details for teacher(s)

Teacher	
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Course overview :

課程簡介：本課程主要討論西方哲學家盧梭的《社會契約論》。透過研讀盧梭主要作品《社會契約論》，並對照參考《人類不平等的起源和基礎》，探討其中重要的哲學觀念及義理。盧梭之名句，「人是生而自由的，但卻無處不在枷鎖之中」，固然是人所皆知，但其真正意涵何在？乍聽起來，盧梭似在鼓吹人要從強權枷鎖之中，必當爭取重獲個體的自由。然而盧梭指出，這部著作的確切目的，其實是要探討，基於什麼理由能夠使得對自由的限制成為合法？究竟自由人的身份與公民的身份有何重要的區別？兩者的關係是：必然衝突？抑或可以被融合？個體的利益能否跟公民的義務彼此整合？如何在限制之下，個人仍可宣稱為自由的公民？「平等」與「自由」這兩個關鍵觀念是否能夠得以調和？盧梭的學說又是否既能引申民主自由之政治形式，又可導致國家政權之專制？

This course examines the major problems and issues in Rousseau's philosophy through a close reading on his major texts. The major focus is directing to the selected texts, *The Social Contract*, and *Discourse on the Origin and the Foundations of Inequality among Men* (the second discourse).

And, this is an undergraduate seminar course devoted to reading and interpreting selected works in Western philosophy and discussing the interpretive and philosophical issues raised by the text.

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

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the historical and cultural background of the philosophical classic selected for reading.

2. Read and interpret the texts, to analyze the content, to identify philosophical issues addressed, and to evaluate the arguments.
3. Acquire a critical view on the doctrines put forward in the texts.
4. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics may include :

1. 盧梭的哲學問題處境，其政治哲學的主要論題；盧梭對人性之論述
2. 社會契約，自然法 (natural law)；自然狀態 (state of nature)，社會狀態；自然人，文明人；平等 (equality)，自由 (liberty)；
3. 公民，個體 (個人)；普遍意志 (general will)；人民主權 (主體)，立法者；公正，正義；自愛，自尊
4. 權利 (right)，政權，政府，政治共同體，共和國 (Republic)； 公民宗教 (Civil Religion)

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 hours for every week (2/ 2.5 hours for the first two or three weeks).
2. Interactive tutorial: one 1-hour session every week starting from week 3 or 4.
3. Presentation and comment on the required readings.

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

1. Reading: 2–3 hours on the required and suggested readings, 4–5 hours on tutorial reading assignments and presentation.
2. Essays: an average of 2–3 hours each week on reading the texts and preparing the essay throughout the semester.

Assessment scheme : Tentative arrangement, and will be revised -

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
分組報告	報告同學必須理解所分配的閱讀材料，然後作課堂上的報告，並且須要最少在是次報告兩天前，提交詳細大綱；大綱以 A4 紙 4 頁為標準	25%
分組評論	評論同學必須理解閱讀材料，最少在評論兩天前，提交評論大綱，約 A4 紙 2 頁為標準	15%

課堂討論參與	課堂提問和討論 – 相關的, 具啟發性反省	10%
短文一篇	約 1000 字, 題目不得與報告選題重複 最後限期: 待定	15%
學期論文	不少於 3000 字, 題目不得與短文選題重複	35%

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

Course schedule

Week		Required reading	Tutorials	Remarks
1-2		Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origin and the foundation of Inequality</i> . Referring to 'Preface', 'Opening' Cassirer, <i>The Question of Jean Jacques Rousseau</i> . Referring to p.45-82		
3-4	1	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origin and the foundation of Inequality</i> . Referring to Part I	相同	
5-6	2	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origin and the foundation of Inequality</i> . Referring to Part II	相同	
7-8	3	Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> . Referring to Book I	相同	
9-10	4	Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> . Referring to Book II	相同	
11-12	5	Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> . Referring to Book III	相同	
13-14	6	Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> . Referring to Book IV	相同	

Recommended learning resources

原典資料 –

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract and Other Political Writings*. Edited and translated by Victor Gourevitch. New York : Cambridge University Press, 1997.

_____, *The Social Contract*. Translated and Introduced by Maurice Cranston. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1971.

_____, *The Social Contract; and the First and Second Discourses*. Edited, with an introduction, by Susan Dunn. New Haven : Yale University Press, 2002.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Discourses and Other Political Writings*. (*Discourse on the Origin and*

Foundations of Inequality among Men) Edited and translated by Victor Gourevitch. New York : Cambridge University Press, 1997.

_____, *Emile, or On Education*. Translated and Introduced by Allan Bloom. New York : Basic Books, 1979.

思想背景及通論 –

(A)

Emile Brehier, *The history of philosophy, vol. V*. Trans. by Joseph Thomas. Chicago : University of Chicago Press, 1969.

Mark Goldie, Robert Wokler (ed.), *The Cambridge history of eighteenth-century political thought*. New York : Cambridge University Press, 2006.

David Miller (ed.), *Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Political Thought*. Oxford, UK : B. Blackwell, 1987.

George Klosko, *History of Political Theory. Volume 2: Modern*. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2013.

Jonathan Wolff, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*. New York : Oxford University Press, 2006.

(B)

Christopher Bertram, *Rousseau and The Social Contract*. London : Routledge, 2004.

Maurice Cranston, *Jean-Jacques : the early life and work of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1712-1754*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1983.

Maurice Cranston, *The Noble Savage: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1754-1762*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1991.

N. J. H. Dent, *A Rousseau Dictionary*. Cambridge, MA : Blackwell, 1992.

Michael Lessnoff, *Social Contract*. Basingstoke : Macmillan, 1986.

Sally Scholz, *On Rousseau*. Belmont, CA : Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2001.

Tzvetan Todorov, *Frail Happiness: an essay on Rousseau*. University Park, Pennsylvania : The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001.

專題探討 (暫定) –

Ernst Cassirer, *The Question of Jean Jacques Rousseau*. Translated and edited by Peter Gay. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1975

Laurence D. Cooper, *Rousseau, Nature, and the Problem of the Good Life*. University Park, Pennsylvania : The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999.

N. J. H. Dent, *Rousseau : an introduction to his psychological, social and political theory*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1989.

Alessandro Ferrara, *Modernity and authenticity : a study in the social and ethical thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau*. Albany : State University of New York, 1993.

Hilail Gildin, *Rousseau's Social Contract*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

- Christie McDonald and Stanley Hoffmann (ed.), *Rousseau and freedom*. New York : Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Kevin Inston, *Rousseau and radical Democracy*. London: Continuum, 2010.
- Eve Grace, Christopher Kelly (ed.), *The challenge of Rousseau*. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2013.
- Christopher Kelly, *Rousseau's exemplary life : the Confessions as political philosophy*. Ithaca : Cornell University Press, 1987.
- Roger D. Masters, *The political philosophy of Rousseau*. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1968.
- Arthur M. Melzer, *The Natural Goodness of Man*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.
- Mira Morgenstern, *Rousseau and the politics of ambiguity : self, culture, and society*. University Park, Pennsylvania : The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2014.
- Frederick Neuhouser, *Rousseau's theodicy of self-love : evil, rationality, and the drive for recognition*. New York : Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Frederick Neuhouser, *Foundations of Hegel's social theory : actualizing freedom*. New York : Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Timothy O'Hagan, *Rousseau*. London: Routledge, 1999.
- Patrick Riley, *Will and political legitimacy : a critical exposition of social contract theory in Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, and Hegel*. Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, 1982.
- Patrick Riley (ed.), *The Cambridge companion to Rousseau*. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Helena Rosenblatt, *Rousseau and Geneva : from the first discourse to the social contract, 1749-1762*. New York : Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Denise Schaeffer, *Rousseau on education, freedom, and judgment*. University Park, Pennsylvania : The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2014.
- Judith N. Shklar, *Men and citizens : a study of Rousseau's social theory*. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1985.
- Jean Starobinski, *Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Transparency and Obstruction*. Trans. by Arthur Goldhammer. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.
- Leo Strauss, *Natural Right and History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1965.
- Tracy B. Strong, *Jean-Jacques Rousseau : the politics of the ordinary*. Lanham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2002.
- Matthew Simpson, *Rousseau's theory of freedom*. New York : Continuum, 2006.
- Robert Wokler (ed.), *Rousseau and liberty*. New York : Manchester University Press, 1995.
- Robert Wokler, *Rousseau, the Age of Enlightenment, and their legacies*. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 2012.

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 eLearning 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.