

**PHIL3000**  
**Ethics 倫理學**

**Course Outline**

**Time : W 1:30pm-3:15pm**

**Location : LSK304**

**Tutorial Time to be arranged**

**Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)**

This course is designed for students to learn how to think about fundamental ethical problems, and how to articulate their thoughts. It also introduces them to some key texts in moral philosophy and helps them to analyze and evaluate the arguments presented therein. Topics to be discussed may include the good life, conceptions of happiness, rationality and morality, duties to others, duties to self.

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

**Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)**

1. Be familiar with some of the central issues in ethics, which might be issues in history of ethics or in contemporary ethics.
2. Be able to read analytically, such that they can identify distinct parts of an argument and grasp each part's role in the overall structure.
3. Be able to read critically, such that they can raise your own questions and form their own objections to the material.
4. Be able to discuss arguments critically and constructively.
5. Be able to defend their own position by giving reasons and explaining the force of those reasons.

**Topics**

- (1) Moral deliberation as it is usually carried out in a "hard case." (Such hard cases might include the Trolley Problem or some problems in Practical Ethics.)
- (2) Ethical theories, such as Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics, Aristotelian Virtue Ethics, and Contractualism.
- (3) Meta-ethical theories (that address the question whether morality is objective), including Moral Anti-realism, Naturalistic Moral Realism, and Non-naturalistic Moral Realism.

**Learning activities**

- (1) Readings: Readings consist of "required readings" and "recommended readings." Required readings for a certain tutorial must be done before the tutorial.
- (2) Tutorial: Students are asked to do the relevant "required readings" before each tutorial. They must be prepared for each tutorial. They should come up with relevant questions and comments on the lecture or the reading, and occasionally presentation of materials.
- (3) Lecture: Moral problems and theories will be introduced and discussed at the lecture.
- (4) Papers: Students must write two papers.

**Assessment scheme**

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Readings	Students must do the relevant “required readings” carefully and analytically before a tutorial.	see “tutorial”
Tutorial	Students will be graded on their understanding of the readings, their preparation for each tutorial.	30%
Midterm paper	Students will submit a paper around mid-term.	30%
Term paper	Students are required to submit a longer paper at the end of the course.	40%

**Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)**

**Students must attend and pass 80% of the tutorials in order to pass the course.**

(To pass a tutorial, a student must show evidence that his/she has done the relevant required reading prior to the tutorial, and must come up with questions and written comments on the required readings and the materials covered in lecture.)

**Recommended learning resources**

The following books offer different perspectives to ethics, and can be read profitably before the Term starts:

- (1) J. L. Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, esp. chaps. 1-3.
- (2) Gilbert Harman, *The Nature of Morality*, esp. chap. 1.
- (3) Thomas Nagel, *The Last Word*, chap. 6.

**Course schedule**

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Introduction / Abortion & Self-Defense	Judith Thomson, “Self-Defense,” <i>Philosophy &amp; Public Affairs</i> , Vol. 20, No. 4 (Autumn, 1991), 283-310.	Tutorial 1	Subject to change without notice
2	Doctrine of Double Effect and The Trolley Problem	- Philippa Foot, “The Problem of Abortion and the Doctrine of the Double Effect” <i>Oxford Review</i> , No. 5. (1967). - Judith Thomson, “The Trolley Problem.” (recommended) - Peter Singer, “Ethics and Intuition,” <i>The Journal of Ethics</i> (2005), 9: 331-352 (recommended).	Tutorial 2	Subject to change without notice
3	Famine and Utilitarianism	- Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality,” <i>Philosophy &amp; Public Affairs</i> , 1971. - J. S. Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , chaps. 1-3	Tutorial 3	Subject to change without notice

4	Utilitarianism & its Critique	- J. S. Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , chaps. 4-5. - T. M. Scanlon, "Contractualism and Utilitarianism"	Tutorial 4	Subject to change without notice
5	Kant's Ethics	Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Section 1.	Tutorial 5	Subject to change without notice
6	Kant's Ethics	- Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Section 2. - T. M. Scanlon, "How I am Not a Kantian." (recommended)	Tutorial 6	Subject to change without notice
7	Aristotle Ethics	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 1	Tutorial 7	Subject to change without notice
8	Aristotelian Virtue Ethics	John McDowell, "Virtue and Reason," <i>The Monist</i> , Vol. 62, No. 3, 1979, 331-350.	Tutorial 8	Subject to change without notice
9	Contractualism	T. M. Scanlon, <i>What We Owe to Each Other</i> , chap. 4.	Tutorial 9	Subject to change without notice
10	Non-consequentialism	Frances Kamm, "Non-consequentialism."	Tutorial 10	Subject to change without notice
11	Moral Anti-realism	J. L. Mackie, <i>Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong</i> , chap. 1.	Tutorial 11	Subject to change without notice
12	Naturalistic (reductive) Moral Realism; Naturalistic (non-reductive) Moral Realism	- Peter Railton, "Moral Realism," in Stephen Darwall, et al., <i>Moral Discourse &amp; Practice</i> , (recommended) - Richard Boyd, "How to be a Moral Realist," Stephen Darwall, et al., <i>Moral Discourse &amp; Practice</i> .	Tutorial 12	Subject to change without notice
13	Non-naturalistic Moral Realism #1	- Thomas Nagel, <i>The Last Word</i> , chap. 6.	Tutorial 13	Subject to change without notice
14	Non-naturalistic Moral Realism #2	T. M. Scanlon, <i>Being Realistic about Reasons</i> , excerpts	Tutorial 14	Subject to change without notice

**Details of course website**

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

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Li Hon-Lam
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Telephone:	3943 7144; 9582 8900
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<b>TA</b>	
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Office location:	
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**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.