

PHIL2040
History of Western Philosophy I 西方哲學史（一）

Course Outline

Time : H 2:30pm-5:15pm

Location : MMW 703

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

The course introduces students to the history of ancient and medieval Western philosophy. Topics include: Presocratic Greek philosophy, classical Greek philosophy and Hellenistic thoughts; Medieval Patristics and Scholasticism.

Advisory to Majors (4-year curriculum): to be taken in year 2.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

Students will be expected to demonstrate familiarity with the major ideas and theories of the philosophers, as well as the relations between the various philosophical movements, covered in the course.

Students will show fluency in traditional Virtue Ethics.

Students will demonstrate competence in traditional metaphysical, epistemic, and ethical problems arising out of the Ancient and Medieval traditions.

Students will exhibit familiarity with various theories concerning the rise of Modernity in Western philosophy.

Topics

The Theory of Forms

Ancient Science

Virtue Ethics

Faith and Reason

Medieval Mysticism

The Problem of Universals

The Problem of Evil

Free Will and Determinism

Various Theories on the Transition from Medieval to Modern Science

Learning activities

Attend lectures and participate in class discussions. Each lecture is approximately 2 hours.

Tutorials: Attend and participate in tutorials (held every week following the lecture.) Each tutorial is approximately 45 minutes.

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Argument Critique I	See Remarks.	25%
Argument Critique II	See Remarks.	25%
Term Paper	See Remarks.	50%

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Remarks on Assessment Scheme

Grade Scale:

A: 87-100
 A-: 80-86
 B+: 77-79
 B: 71-77
 B-: 68-70
 C+: 65-67%
 C: 59-64%
 C-: 56-58%
 D+: 53-55%
 D: 50-52%
 F: < 5

Grade Criterion for Argument Critique:

A:

The student knows the authors positions, and proves this knowledge by knowing the argument(s) supporting the theses in the text. Student evidences self-initiated thinking and understanding of the arguments through his/her ability to present her own counter-arguments and possible replies to counter-arguments. The student exhibits thorough understanding of the relations of the themes presented in the various texts.

B:

The student knows the authors positions, and generally understands the arguments supporting them. Student has difficulty developing her own criticisms and rebuttals to criticism. The student exhibits relatively complete understanding of the relations of the themes presented in the various texts.

C:

The student shows the ability to properly relay information about the text and the positions contained therein, but has difficulty re-constructing the arguments, presenting counter-arguments, and criticism. Student has a difficulty understanding arguments. The student shows an incomplete understanding of the relations of the themes presented in the various texts.

D:

The student cannot explicate the positions or the arguments for such positions in the text. The student exhibits seriously incomplete understanding.

F:

The student exhibits all the failures mentioned under 'D'. The student earns an F by failing to complete the assignment.

Remarks:**Class Participation:**

Attendance is mandatory and *absence will damage your grades*. Two unexcused absences are permitted. For each unexcused absence beyond two, one-half a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade. In case of emergencies, either notify me of your absence ahead of time, or plan to bring some formal documentation of your absence. Without documentation, I will not accept absences as excused.

Argument Critiques:

The Argument Critiques consist of three parts. In respect to the papers, I shall provide you with passages from the texts which we are reading, and I will ask you to choose one passage to work on. You will formulate the argument contained in that passage, and formulate a critique of that passage. The last stage consists in formulating a reply to the criticism that you raise. I encourage you to utilize the texts that we are reading in formulating the criticisms; you are encouraged to employ the philosophers against each other. Argument Critiques should be 3-4 double spaced pages in length.

Term Paper:

The term paper will require students to uncover a philosopher problem in one of the texts that we have read together and clearly explicate that problem. Following the explication of the problem, students should work through various solutions to the problem and clearly formulate their own thesis concerning that problem. I highly recommend that students use one of their Argument Critiques as a possible groundwork for their Term Paper. The term paper requires students to consult and cite at least one work of secondary literature in addition to the required readings. The term paper should not be more than 5-7 double spaced pages.

Late Work/Make-Ups:

Late assignments will be penalized one-half a letter grade for each day the paper is tardy. If you would like a grade changed, you must provide me with a detailed written argument for why you think it should be changed, otherwise I will not consider it.

Recommended Readings

Edith Hamilton, *The Greek Way*

Jonathan Barnes, *The Presocratic Philosophers*

Plato, *The Republic*

Plato, *Symposium*

Plato, *Apology*

Plato, *Protagoras*

Aristotle, *Physics*

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Aristotle, *Politics*

A.A. Long, *Hellenistic Philosophy: Stoics, Epicureans, Skeptics*

Plotinus, (Elmer O Brian) *The Essential Plotinus*

Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will*

Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*

Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*

Anselm, *Proslogion*

Meister Eckhart, *The Essential Sermons, Commentaries, Treatises and Defense (Classics of Western Spirituality)*

Pseudo-Dionysius, *The Complete Works*

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
1	Introduction	
2	Presocratics: Parmenides and Heraclitus (Excerpts)	
3	Plato, <i>Apology</i> , <i>Protagoras</i> (Excerpts)	
4	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , <i>Symposium</i> (Excerpts)	
5	Aristotle, <i>Physics</i> , <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (Excerpts)	Argument Critique I
6	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , <i>De Anima</i> (Excerpts)	
7	Hellenistic Philosophy: Stoics, Skeptics, Epicureans (Excerpts)	
8	Augustine, <i>Free Choice of the Will</i> and Paul, <i>Romans</i> (Excerpts)	
9	Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> , <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> (Excerpts)	
10	Neo-Platonism: Plotinus and Pseudo-Dionysius (Excerpts)	Argument Critique II
11	Meister Eckhart and Medieval Mysticism	
12	Jewish and Islamic Medieval Philosophy	
13	Heidegger, Bloomberg, and Hans Jonas on the Medieval Period	
14	M.B. Foster: Christianity and the Rise of Modern Science	

*Term Paper: **TBD**

Details of course website

We will use Blackboard for this course. Lecture notes and information on assignments and examinations will be posted on the website.

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

Teacher	
Name:	Moss, Gregory
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TA	
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

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.