PHIL1110
Introduction to Philosophy 哲學概論

Course Outline

Time：T 10:30am-1:15pm	Location：YIA LT4

Course overview

This course is a general introduction to philosophical thinking and problems from a *global* perspective. Students will gain a basic familiarity with some of the major philosophical fields, figures and issues; be encouraged to develop their own views and to defend them with critical reasoning. Topics to be discussed may include: notion of philosophy; nature of philosophical problems; the importance of philosophical reflection; methods of philosophy; concepts and theories of self, world, categories, and value; and selected topics in ethics, metaphysics, and the theory of knowledge.

Learning outcomes

1. Develop the capacity to read primary philosophical texts and perform philosophical exegesis.

2. Acquire the ability to reconstruct philosophical arguments from philosophical texts.

3. Learn how to construct philosophical arguments on one's own through critical engagement with global philosophical traditions, philosophical issues, and concepts.

4. Develop the capacity to philosophize well with others both verbally and in writing.

5. Become familiar with the important ideas, systems, and arguments in the history of philosophy through reading influential primary texts in the history of philosophy.

6. Become familiar with the philosophical and historical origins of philosophical questions in the history of philosophy.

7. Understand the importance of philosophical reflection and bring it to bear on what is of importance in one's own life.

Topics

Philosophy as a Global Discipline

History of Philosophy

Theories of Knowledge

Skepticism

Philosophy of Mind and Self

Ethics

Learning activities

In class:

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

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

Outside of Class:

1. Reading: Read each reading assignment before lecture. After lecture read the same assignment again whenever feasible.

2. Writing: Regarding writing, begin your argument critiques at least two weeks before they are due in order to give yourself time to edit, re-write, and integrate feedback from the TA and the Professor.

3. The Mid Term exam will be conducted on Blackboard.

4. Group projects (such as the Socratic Encounter) will require you to meet with other students outside of scheduled class times.

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Argument Reconstruction	See Remarks.	15%
Argument Critique	See Remarks.	25%
Mid Term and Final Exam	See Remarks.	**MT**: 25% **F**: 25%
Socratic Encounter	See Remarks.	10%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Grade Criteria:

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 having a blatant disregard for the great masters of the global philosophical traditions by not reading and not attending lectures.

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: < 50

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. Students are encouraged to visit the Professor and/or the TA during office hours for comments on rough drafts before they turn in the final draft.

Exams

The Exams contain two sections. One section will consist of short answer questions, in which you will be asked to provide arguments for particular conclusions elicited from the texts. You will not be asked to provide arguments for any conclusions except those which are discussed in the lectures and tutorials. The second section will consist of long-essay questions in which you will re-construct the position and the arguments of a philosopher(s) on a particular theme, e.g. 'moral responsibility'. You will also be asked to critique these arguments and relate them to other philosophers and texts that we have discussed.

Socratic Encounters

Socratic Encounters require you to engage other persons inside of class in a Socratic conversation. The assignment teaches the student how to ask questions, and to construct arguments by asking questions. These conversations shall be highly regulated, and the rules pertaining to which shall be given in handouts.

Participation and Discussion

Attendance and participation in both lecture and tutorial is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed. For every unexcused absence after the second, **one letter grade** will be deducted from the final grade. Illness and family emergencies usually count as excused absences, as long as documentation is submitted. Whether an absence counts as excused is subject to the professor's discretion.

Technology

Technology is allowed in this course, but only for the purpose of note-taking and other class-specific activities. Once class has begun, please refrain from distracting yourself and other students by playing on the internet, using social media, etc. Persons found violating this technology policy will be counted absent.

Tutorials

Every week the TA shall lead a tutorial on the subject matter from the previous week's reading or lecture material. The purpose of the tutorial is to allow students to further discuss various philosophical problems that arise in the material with their peers in class and in small groups. In addition, the tutorials will serve as an opportunity for students to practice reconstructing and critiquing arguments with the guidance of the TA and engage in peer review of assignments. Finally, the Socratic Encounter assignment will be performed during the tutorial sessions.

Reading Assignments

Read and study each assignment on the day it is assigned. To maximally benefit from these readings, I recommend three readings, but suggest a minimum of two readings: First, read the assigned text. After participating in lecture and the tutorial, read the text once more.

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.

Required Text

Introduction to World Philosophy, Edited by Daniel Bonevac and Steven Phillips

Recommended learning resources

See Instructor for additional reading.

Course schedule

Week	Topics	Required reading	Assignments
1	Introduction: *Plato's Apology*	N/A	
2	Ancient Greek Theories of Knowledge	Ch. 14	
3	Modern Theories of Knowledge	Ch. 16	
4	Indian Theories of Knowledge	Ch. 12	**Argument Reconstruction**
5	Ancient Greek Philosophy of Mind	Ch. 9	
6	Mind and Body in Early Modern Philosophy	Ch. 10	
7	The Self in Indian Philosophy	Ch. 7	
8	The Self in Chinese Buddhism	Ch. 8	**Mid Term Exam (Blackboard)**
9	African Philosophy of Mind	Ch. 11	
10	Ancient Greek Ethics	Ch. 3	
11	Ethics in Modern Philosophy	Ch. 5	**Argument Critique**
12	Ethics in Philosophical Traditions in India	Ch. 1	
13	Chinese Ethics	Ch. 2	
14	African Ethics	Ch. 6	

FINAL EXAM: 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.