PHIL4443
Seminar on Philosophical Issues 哲學問題研討

Course Outline

Time：T 3:30pm-6:15pm   Location：UCC 110

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This is a seminar course devoted to examining selected issues in philosophy. The specific content of the course varies from semester to semester. Offerings with different subtitles can be taken up for credit, up to a maximum of two times.

Advisory to Majors (old curriculum): to be taken in year 2 or above.

Advisory to Majors (new curriculum): to be taken in year 3 or above.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Gain competence in explaining and evaluating the key concepts and theories addressed in the course.

2. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary and secondary source texts in the syllabus.

3. Engage in in-depth discussion on the selected topics of the course.

4. Demonstrate ability to articulate and defend one's own philosophical theses with clarity.

5. Demonstrate consolidated skills in expository and argument writing.

Topics

Learning activities

- Reading
- Thinking
- Discussion
- Writing papers

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Presentations & Discussion	Discussion and presentation in class	30%
Paper 1	Paper 1 before mid-term	30%
Paper 2	Paper 2 will be required at the end of Term	40%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Recommended learning resources

Students who plan to take this course are strongly urged to read John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, chaps. 1-3 beforehand (i.e., before the Second Term starts).

Students should read the relevant readings BEFORE each class. Consider questions to raise. Each student will write two papers. (I will decide whether to ask students to write each paper in two drafts, after knowing the number of students enrolled in this course.)

Course schedule

Week	Topics	Required reading	Tutorials	Remarks
1	Justice as Fairness	J. Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (ATOJ) chaps. 1& 2		
2	The Original Position	ATOJ, chap. 3; J. Rawls, *Political Liberalism* (PL), *chap. 1*		
3	Political Liberalism	PL, chap. 2		
4	Political Constructivism	PL, chap. 3.		
5	The Idea of an Overlapping Consensus	PL, chap. 4		
6	Priority of Right and Ideas of the Good	PL, chap. 5		
7	The Idea of Public Reason	PL, chap. 6		
8	The Idea of Public Reason	J. Rawls, The Law of Peoples, "The Idea of Public Reason Revisited."		
9	Kant's view Moral Conflict & Political Legitimacy	Kant,"What is Enlightenment?" T. Nagel, "Moral Conflict & Political Legitimacy" J. Raz, "Facing Diversity" J. Raz, "Disagreement in Politics"		
10	Public Reason Liberalism	G. Gaus, "Public Reason Liberalism" J. Quong, "On the Idea of Public Reason"		

		C. Larmore, "The Moral Basis of Political Liberalism"		
		C. Larmore, "Public Reason"		
11	Critiques	S. Wall, "Is public justification self-defeating?"		
		K. Vallier, "Against Public Reason Liberalism's Accessibility Requirement"		
12		J. Chan, "Legitimacy, Unanimity, and Perfectionism"		
13	Sandel	Review of *Political Liberalism*.		
14	Habermas	J. Habermas, "Reconciliation Through the Use of Public Reason: Remarks on John Rawls's Political Liberalism"		

Details of course website

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

Teacher	
Name:	Li Hon-lam
Office location:	Room 425, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 7144
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TA	**Nil**
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.