

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

Course Outline

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

Location : MMW 703

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4pm

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

The course introduces students to the history of classical ancient philosophy, with a special focus on the philosophical thought of Plato and Aristotle.

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, ethical, and political problems in the tradition of Ancient Greek Philosophy.

Students will develop the capacity to think through a philosophical problem, reconstruct a philosophical argument from a primary text, and develop the capacity to construct their own critiques.

Topics

Plato and Aristotle

The Ancient Theory of Forms (Plato and Aristotle)

Problem of Universals

Ancient Science

Virtue Ethics

Ancient Greek Political Philosophy

Meta-philosophy

Learning activities

Attend lectures and participate in class discussions. Each lecture is approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Argument Reconstruction	See Remarks.	10%

Participation	See Remarks.	15%
Argument Critique	See Remarks.	25%
Final Exam	See Remarks.	50%

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:

Students are required to attend *every session*. The class participation grade will be calculated based on *the percentage of meetings the student has attended*. In addition, *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.

Final Exam:

The Exams contain three sections. The first section will require you to reconstruct an argument from a philosophical text. The second section will require you to answer specific questions and reconstruct specific arguments covered in the lectures and the readings. The third section will consist of one long-essay question.

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 Readings

Plato, (1997), *Republic: Complete Works*. trans. G.M.A. Grube, ed. John M. Cooper and Donald J. Zeyl, Hackett Publishing, Indianapolis, 971-1224.

Aristotle (2002), *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Joe Sachs, Focus Publishing, Newburyport.

Recommended Readings

Edith Hamilton, *The Greek Way*

Malcolm Shofield, Plato: Political Philosophy

Oxford Bibliography, Plato:

<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195389661/obo-9780195389661-0006.xml>

Oxford Bibliography, Aristotle:

<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195389661/obo-9780195389661-0079.xml>

"The Idea of the Political and the Challenge of Particularity: Plato, Modernity, and PostModern Political Identification," in *The Political Identity of the West*, edited by Orrin F. Summerell and Marcel van Ackeren, pp. 70-89. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2006.

“Soul, Soul’s Motions, and Virtue in Plato’s Laws,” Proceedings of the VI Symposium Platonicum, edited by Samuel Scolnicov and Luc Brisson, pp. 257-67. Sankt Augustin, Germany: Academica Verlag, 2003.

“Knowledge of the Whole in the Republic,” Dialogues on Plato's Politeia (Republic). Selected Papers from the Ninth Symposium Platonicum, edited by Noburu Notomi and Luc Brisson, pp. 252-56. Sankt Augustin, Germany: Academica Verlag, 2013.

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*

Duns Scotus, *Sentences of Peter Lombard*

Anselm, *Proslogion*

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

Pseudo-Dionysius, *The Complete Works*

Course schedule

Week	Topics	Assignments
1	Introduction	
2	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book I	
3	Book II	
4	Book III	
5	Book IV	Argument Reconstruction
6	Book V	
7	Book VI	
8	Book VII	
9	Book VIII	
10	Book IX	
11	Book X	Argument Critique

12	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , BK I	
13	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , BK II-III	

Final Exam: To Be Determined

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
Office location:	Room 426, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 9875
Email:	gsmoss@cuhk.edu.hk

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.