

PHIL 4413 Topics in Comparative Philosophy: Aesthetics East & West  
Term 2, 2018  
Course Outline

**Time: Wednesday 10:30-13:15**

**Location: UCA 312**

**Course Overview**

Since the dawn of human civilization, the visual arts have enjoyed a key role in how we communicate with and understand others. Indeed, before there was music and language, art was already being used. Given it is a visual mode of expression, art both exists within and transcends its own medium, a feat not even music can claim. If there is one thing that binds the different forms of art together it is color. Without color art cannot exist and yet, color gives art its otherworldly characteristics. Color, we can say, reveals the being of the artist. This seminar will explore two modes of artistic representation—painting and sculpture—in order to reveal their metaphysical significance. In discussing these modes, we will pay special attention to use of color (light) and space and what they say about the artist, the viewer, and humanity as a whole. The texts we will read come from both China and the West, from antiquity and modernity. Some of the thinkers will be familiar while others will not. In the end, you will come away from this course with a newfound appreciation of the visual arts and the philosophical context hidden within.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Become familiar with key philosophical concepts, arguments, and movements.
2. Develop your skill in reading philosophical texts.
3. Develop your critical thinking skills by discussing lecture materials in tutorials.
4. Learn how to research and write philosophical papers.

**Topics**

See lecture schedule below

**Learning Activities**

1. Read and give thought to the assigned readings.
2. Develop the skills mentioned above in the Learning Outcomes.
3. Improve your research skills through various writing assignments.
4. Attend lectures and engage your fellow classmates in discussion on the material presented.

**Assessment Scheme**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Reflection Papers	6 x 2 pages @ 2.5 points each	15%

Term Paper Outline	5 pages, due week 4	15%
Term Paper	20 pages, due May 3	70%

### Reflection Papers

You are to write **6** reflection papers on **6 separate** lectures over the semester. You are to write each reflection paper on the preceding week's lecture (for example, if you want to write about lecture 2, you will submit your paper in week 3). **Late papers will not be accepted.** The reflection papers cover lectures 2 through 12 (lectures 1 and 13 are excluded). These are not research papers; they are your own reflections on the lectures (hence you cannot write them if you do not attend class!). Try to relate the material to your own life experience. Do not summarize the lectures. I want to see your ability to think philosophically in an informal setting! The format should be: 1-inch margin, double-line spacing, 12 pt. Times New Roman font. The length of each paper is 2 pages and each paper is worth 2.5 points.

### Term Paper Outline

The purpose of this outline is to ensure you begin work on your paper as early in the semester as possible. You will be writing a long philosophy paper which requires careful thinking about your thesis and the materials you will use to support it. What I am expecting is the following: first, give a detailed description of your thesis—this might require several paragraphs—whereby you state what your paper is about, how you plan to argue it (your methodology), and why the reader should care (your scholarly contribution); second, spend a paragraph or two outlining each of the sub-arguments (sections) of your thesis (I would suggest you have 3 or 4 of them, but not more than 5); third, write a paragraph describing your conclusion; and fourth, give a tentative list of works (books, chapters, articles) you will use to write your paper (your bibliography). The paper outline is not supposed to be a final version but a work-in-progress; it will change in light of the comments I will make and again once you sit down to begin writing it. The outline is **due in class on Jan. 30** (week 4) and should be a **minimum of 5 pages**, using 1-inch margins, double-line spacing, 12pt. Times New Roman font. Remember to include your name, student number, and course code at the top of the first page. The outline is worth 15 points; the more comprehensive a job you do, the higher your mark will be. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

### Term Paper

You will write **one** term paper, in English, on a topic of your choosing. Non-English materials can be used but you must translate any quoted material. Comparative papers are allowed. Your paper must reflect the outline you submitted; if you change your outline in any significant way, you should let me know first. The format should be: 1-inch margins, double-line spacing, 12pt. Times New Roman font. Include a separate cover page containing the title of your paper, your name and student number, the course code, and date of submission. **You must cite any and all material** that is not of your own creation, including paraphrased (summarized) sections of a text; failure to do so will result in a failing grade. The citation format should follow the Chicago style (see style guide posted on Blackboard). The length of your paper is to be **20 pages**, not including the title page and bibliography. Leave a printed copy of your paper in my mailbox or slide it under my office door before 5pm on Friday May 3. **Late papers will not be accepted.**

## Course Materials

Lecture topics and weekly readings are still being decided upon; readings will be uploaded to Blackboard, along with an updated version of the course outline, sometime in December.

## Course Schedule

Lecture	Topic & Guiding Questions	Readings	Remarks
<b>1</b> Jan. 9	Course Introduction	tbd	
<b>2</b> Jan. 16	tbd	~	
<b>3</b> Jan. 23	~	~	
<b>4</b> Jan. 30	~	~	Paper Outline due
Feb. 4 – 9 Chinese New Year			
<b>5</b> Feb. 13	~	~	
<b>6</b> Feb. 20	~	~	
<b>7</b> Feb. 27	~	~	
<b>8</b> March 6	~	~	
<b>9</b> March 13	~	~	
<b>10</b> March 20	~	~	
<b>11</b> March 27	~	~	
April 1 – 6 Reading Week			
<b>12</b> April 10	~	~	
<b>13</b> April 17	No Lecture: Use this time to work on your paper ( <b>due Friday, May 3</b> )		

\* This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

## Details of Course Website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

### **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/>

### **Contact Information**

<b>Professor D. Chai</b>	
Office	Room 422, Fung King Hey Building
Email	davidchai@cuhk.edu.hk
Hours	Drop-by anytime. If you need to see me at a specific time/day, contact me by email first

\* Note on etiquette: Whenever you send me an email, address me as Professor Chai. If you use anything else, I will ignore your email. Also, be sure to give your own name and the course code; if you don't, I will ignore your email.