

UGED 2921
Philosophy, Film, and Life
Course Outline

Time: Monday 1:30-4:15

Location : Esther
Lee Bldg LT1

Office Hours: W 1-3

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

The course aims to explore aspects of human life as reflected in philosophy and film and explores the philosophical implications of films. Through selected films, students will be encouraged to develop critical thinking skills and concern for the meaning of life. Discussion will focus on four categories: (1) films concerning humanities: the nobleness and darkness of human nature, the joy and sadness of love, and the absurdity of life; (2) films concerning virtual reality: the implications of the emulated world in sci-fi films, self-consciousness, and the crisis of false memory; (3) the metaphysical significance in films: the image of death, the origin of holiness and evil, and theism versus atheism; (4) and issues in political philosophy.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Describe and analyze some basic concepts and theories of philosophy.
2. Discuss the philosophical elements of some major genre of films.
3. Appreciate the contribution of philosophy to our understanding and appreciation of films.
4. Reflect philosophically on our experience in daily life through film appreciation.

Topics

Reality and Illusion

Truth, Falsehood and Perspective

Existentialism

Personal Identity

Culture and Alienation

Religion and Spirituality

Political Philosophy

Artificial Intelligence

Aesthetics and Beauty

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>
Participation	See Remarks.	10%
Weekly Reflections	See Remarks.	15%
Argument Critique	See Remarks.	25%
Term Paper	See Remarks.	50%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme

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.

Weekly Reflections:

Every week students will write short philosophical reflections on the assigned films. Where relevant, these reflections should connect the weekly assigned readings with the film assignments.

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 films that we have screened, 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 seminar presentations as a possible groundwork for their seminar paper. The term paper requires students to consult and cite **at least one additional work of secondary literature** in addition to the required readings. The seminar paper should be **at least 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.

Required Readings

Weekly *Excerpts* from Philosophical Texts (Provided by the Instructor)

Recommended Readings

1. 勞思光：《哲學淺說新編》，香港：中文大學出版社，1998年
2. 唐君毅：《哲學概論》上、下冊，香港：友聯出版社，1974年
3. 唐君毅：《人生的體驗》，台北：學生書局，1979年
4. 唐君毅：《人生的體驗續篇》，台北：學生書局，1979年
5. 傅統先：《哲學與人生》，台灣：水牛出版社，1987年
6. 朱光潛：《文藝心理學》，台北：臺灣開明書店，1958年
7. 陶國璋：《哲學的陌生感》，香港：洪葉出版社，1998年
8. 陳永明：《哲人哲語》，香港：現代教育研究社，1995年
9. 陸杰榮：《從痛苦到超越》，瀋陽：遼寧教育，1991年
10. 李達生編：《存在主義與人生問題》，香港：大學生活，1974年
11. 羅秉祥：《生死男女》，香港：突破，1997年
12. 羅秉祥：《繁星與道德》，香港：三聯書店，1993

13. 劉小楓：《沉重的肉身》，香港：牛津大學，1998年
14. 米蘭昆德拉：《生命中不能承受之輕》，台北：時報文化，96年
15. Jostein Gaarder 著，蕭寶森譯：《蘇菲的世界》，北京：作家出版社，1995年
16. B. Russell, 張素蓉譯：《哲學問題》，台北：業強出版社，1987年
17. 羅素：《幸福之路》，北京，文化藝術，1998年
18. 黑格爾著，朱光潛譯。《美學》，北京：商務印書館（新華書店北京發行所發，1979年
19. 亞理斯多德著，羅念生譯《詩學》，北京：人民文學出版社，1962年(1982)
20. 海德格爾：《人，詩意地安居》，上海：上海遠東，1996年
21. 紹伊博爾德，宋祖良譯：《海德格爾分析新時代的技術》，北京：中國社會科學，1993年
22. 尼采，戚仁譯：《上帝死了》，瀋陽：遼寧人民，1989年
23. 沙特，周煦良譯：《存在主義是一種人道主義》，上海：上海譯文，1988年
24. B. Russell, The Problems of Philosophy, New York : Oxford Univ. Press, 1959
25. John Hospers, An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis, 4th ed., London: Routledge, 1997
26. Stephan Korner, Fundamental Questions of Philosophy, Harmondsworth, Eng: Penguin Books, 1969

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
1	Reality, Illusion, and Identity Matrix	
2	Mulholland Drive/Open Your Eyes	
3	Fight Club/Memento	
4	Rashamon/12 Angry Men	
5	Existential Meaning, Desire, and Suffering Vertigo/Requiem for a Dream	Argument Reconstruction
6	There Will Be Blood/Citizen Kane	
7	Mad World/The Double	
8	Enigma of Kaspar Hauser/Seventh Seal	
9	Philosophy of Religion Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring The Last Temptation of Christ	
10	Philosophy of Religion and Political Philosophy Les Miserables/Selma	
11	Metropolis/The Lives of Others	Argument Critique
12	Apocalypse, Technology, and Futurity	

	Stalker/Children of Men	
13	2001: A Space Odyssey/Blade Runner	

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.

Feedback for evaluation

- a. Course and teaching evaluation survey will be conducted in the second last week of the course. Students are reminded of their responsibility and right to give feedback to facilitate

enhancement of the course.

- b. Students are welcome to give feedbacks to the course teacher at any time in person or through emails.