The Chinese University of Hong Kong Department of Philosophy

UGED1810A Critical Thinking 批判思考 Course Outline

Course overview

批判思考並不一定帶來「批評」,所謂「批判思考」,指的是經過仔細審視、反思然後才得出結論的思考。一個會批判思考的人,不會人云亦云、草率下結論,反而會認真審視某一說法,用合適方法來思考究竟這說法有沒有足夠證據支持,然後才按證據決定自己相信與否。所以,批判思考一方面是一種能力,但同時亦是一種態度和習慣。

為了培養學生批判思考的能力和態度,本科將以分以下三部份:

在第一部份,本科將會教授一些思考工具,使學生能用以學懂如果評價不同論證、區分好的理由和壞的理由、避免犯上思考錯誤。在這一部份,學生將學到我們有哪些常見的思考謬誤(fallacy)、有哪些會影響我們思考的認知偏誤(cognitive bias)、我們應該怎樣思考有關概率(probability)的問題、我們可以怎樣決定某樣東西是不是另一樣東西的原因(cause)、我們何時決定應不應該相信某一個「專家」的說話等問題。

在第二部份,本科將直接討論一些常見而又重要的問題。在很多題目中,空有思考的技法但對該問題認識不深,往往使人不能深入地思考該課題。所以,在第二部份,本科將會直接討論一些「真善美」和個範疇中的重要問題,以求學生對這些題目的複雜之處有所認識和反思,從而避免思考時下過於簡單、流於淺薄的結論。在這部份,本科將會討論的問題包括:

- 一、求真: 甚麼是科學?科學是不是只是另一種宗教?科學一定可信嗎?宗教的宣稱又是否可信?
- 二、求善: 甚麼是道德? 道德沒有客觀可言? 對錯只是相對的? 是不是不自然的東西都是道德上不正確的?
- 三、求美: 詮譯和評價文學和藝術作品是不是就是看作者意圖? 為甚麼有人會說作者已 死? 這說法合理嗎? 會不會只是我們把自己的想法強加到文學和藝術品上去?

在第三部份,我們將會反思思考和思考處境間的關係,從而讓我們反省思考的內容是否可靠。所有人的思考,都不得不在我們身處的社會、文化下進行,那社會和文化對我們的思考有甚麼影響?同一方面,我們的思考亦不得不受到歷史所影響,那歷史又會怎樣限制了我們的思考?這些影響和限制有多大?面對這些限制,我們又可以做些甚麼?

Learning outcomes

課程完結後,本科希望學生能:

- 1. 學懂了一些基本的思考工具
- 2. 養成了批判思考的態度和習慣
- 3. 對求真、求善、求美中的一些重要的問題有基本認識
- 4. 明白到思考和社會、文化、歷史間的關係

Assessment scheme

| Task nature | Weight |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Final exam | 40% |
| Term paper | 40% |
| Discussion and optional oral exam | 20% |

Text book and reference materials

No text books will be used in this course. Students are advised to seek opinions from the teacher if they want further readings. Some readings will also be suggested in classes.

Feedback for evaluation

- 1. Students are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the course via email or meetings with lecturer.
- 2. Students evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term as well as via regular feedback between teacher and students. This information is highly valued and is used to revise teaching methods, tasks, and content.

Contact details

| Lecturer | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| Name: | YEUNG Chun Yin 楊俊賢 |
| Email: | salt.yeung@tutanota.com |

Details of course website

We use Blackboard Learn for this course. Lecture notes and information on assignments and examinations will be posted on the website.

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.

Grade Descriptor of The Department of Philosophy:

http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade descriptors.pdf