

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

**Course Outline**

**Mode of Teaching:** Lecture - Online / Tutorial – online until further notice

**Time : LEC: W 10:30am-1:15pm**

**Location :**

**Online**

**TUT: TBA**

**TBA**

**Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)**

The course introduces students to the history of ancient and medieval Western philosophy. Topics include: Presocratic Greek philosophy, classical Greek philosophy and Hellenistic thoughts; Medieval Patristics and Scholasticism.

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.

**Topics**

1. Introduction
2. The Presocratic Period
  - a. The Miletus School (Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes)
  - b. Heraclitus
  - c. Parmenides
  - d. Zeno of Elea
  - e. Atomists (Leucippus and Democritus)
  - f. The Sophists (Protagoras and Gorgias)
3. The Classical Period
  - a. Socrates
  - b. Plato
  - c. Aristotle
4. The Hellenistic-Roman Period
  - a. Stoicism
  - b. Epicureanism
  - c. Neo-Platonism: Plotinus

## Learning activities

In this course, you are expected to

- read and think about the assigned readings;
- develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing (short essays and reflective summaries of the readings);
- attend *all* lectures/tutorials and participate in discussion.

*Activities and workload:*

In-class (mandatory):

Lecture/Seminar Discussion: 3 hours each week.

Out-of-class (average workload per week):

1. Reading: 3–4 hours on the basic and suggested readings each week.
2. Writing Assignments: Approx. 1 hours each week on preparing and writing essay assignments throughout the term.
3. Final Exam: Approx. 1 hour each week for preparation. You should make sure that you reserve more time towards the end of the semester.

## Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Participation in online class discussions	Discussion	10%
Two Reflective Summaries	Written Assignments	20%
Two Take Home Tests	A few short essay questions and some ten short questions to answer	30%
Final Exam (online)		40%

**Backup plan for assessment in case face-to-face teaching and assessment is possible (no need to fill in if the class and related assessments are to be conducted online)**

Since a major aim of this course is to develop students' ability to interpret, analyze, and generate philosophical arguments through discussion and writing, the assessment methods are designed to encourage participation and learning through argumentative writing.		
<b>Task nature</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Participation in class discussions and tutorial discussions	Discussion	10%

Tutorial presentation	Presentation	20%
Two Take Home Tests	A few short essay questions and some ten short questions to answer	30%
Final Exam		40%

### Remarks

1. Participation in class and tutorial discussions: Grading will be based on your active participation. *Absence will damage your grades.*
2. Reflective Summaries: your task is to submit one single-spaced typewritten page. You are supposed to a) provide a 1-2 paragraph long summary of the assigned readings, b) identify what you consider to be the weakest part of the work (philosophically, with argumentation) and explain why (one paragraph), c) identify what you consider to be the strongest part of the work (philosophically, with argumentation) and explain why (1 paragraph), d) come up with some good questions for discussion in class. Each summary should be approximately 500 words long.
3. Take Home Exam: An essay (ca. 1000 words long) and 10 questions to answer)
4. Final Exam: It will be composed of a variety of questions, both multiple choice as well as Y/N questions, as well as questions that will require brief elaboration.

### Recommended learning resources

1. F. C. Copleston, *A History of Philosophy*, 9 vols. (esp. vols. 1-3), New York: Image Books, 1993.
2. S. M. Cohen, P. Curd, and C.D.C. Reeve eds.), *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle*. Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, 2011.
3. W. K. C. Guthrie, *A History of Greek Philosophy*, 6 vols., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1962-.
4. G. W. F. Hegel, *Lectures on the history of philosophy: the lectures of 1825-1826*, ed. R. F. Brown, trans. R.F. Brown and J.M. Stewart with the assistance of H.S. Harris, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.
5. A. Kenny, *A New History of Western Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, 2012.
6. K.F. Johansen, *A History of Ancient Philosophy: From the Beginnings to Augustine*. London and New York: Routledge, 1998.
7. B. Duignan (ed.), *Ancient Philosophy: From 600 BCE to 500 CE (The History of Philosophy)*. Britannica Educational Publishing, 2011.
8. B. Russell, *A History of Western Philosophy*, London: Routledge, 1993.

9. W. Windelband, *A History of Philosophy: With Special Reference to the Formation and Development of its Problems and Conceptions*, trans. J. H. Tufts, New York: Macmillan Co., 1901.

**Details of course website**

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

**Grade Descriptor**

Please refer to: [http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)

## Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Recommended Readings</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Sep. 9	Introduction: The Birth of Western Philosophy	No readings		
Sep 16	Presocratic Period: Heraclitus and Parmenides	Copleston: 38-54	CCR: 29-46	
Sep 23	Presocratic Period: Zeno, Empedocles and the Atomists	Copleston: 54-66 and 72-76	CCR: 47-57 and 80-93	
Sep 30	The Sophists and Socrates	Copleston: 81-86 and 96-116	CCR: 104-117	<b>Reflective Summary 1: Submission due on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>
Oct 7	Plato: Theory of Knowledge and the Doctrine of Forms	Copleston: 142-163	CCR: 135-153	
Oct 14	Plato: Psychology and Moral Theory	Copleston: 207-223	CCR: 153-179	
Oct 21	Plato: The State and Physics	Copleston: 223-244	CCR: 153-179	<b>Take Home Exam I: Submission due on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup></b>
Oct 28	Aristotle: Logic and Metaphysics	Copleston: 287-320	CCR: 870-880	
Nov 4	Aristotle: Psychology and Ethics	Copleston: 332-351	CCR: 880-890	<b>Reflective Summary 2: Submission due on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup></b>
Nov 11	Aristotle: Politics and Aesthetics	Copleston: 351-369	CCR: 890-900	
Nov 18	Stoicism	Copleston: 385-401, 421-425, 428-438	Epictetus, <i>Encheiridion</i> (Selections)	
Nov 25	Epicureanism, Cynicism, Skepticism	Copleston: 401-412, 438-446	Epicurus, "Letter to Menoeceus" and "Principal Doctrines"	<b>Take Home Exam II: submission due on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup></b>
Dec 2	Conclusion	No readings		

This course schedule is tentative and it might be modified with the aim of adapting it to your intellectual interests and needs.

### **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.

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

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