

PHIL5531 Topics in Buddhist Philosophy

Course Outline

Mode of Teaching: online until further notice

Time : Monday 18:30 – 21:30

Location : NRR

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

What is reality? How do we know? How shall we exist? This course intends to explore the rich sources of Buddhist philosophical traditions. Topics include emptiness and negation, theories of mind, language and perception. Attention will be given to their relevance to the contemporary discussions in Western philosophy. Readings include basic works of Abhidharma, Madhyamaka, Yogacara and Pramanavada. This semester we will focus on Abhidharma.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Acquire knowledge of the selected topics of the course.
2. Have a solid grasp of the philosophical issues of the selected topics of the course.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary/secondary source texts.
4. Be able to articulate and defend a philosophical thesis of their own

Topics

- 1 課程簡介
- 2 阿毘達磨
- 3 一切有部
- 4 經量部
- 5 三世實有
- 6 緣有緣無之爭
- 7 心心所（有部）
- 8 Presentations
- 9 心心所（經部）
- 10 心之自知
- 11 輪迴與業
- 12 業與因果
- 13 作用與無作用

Learning activities

In this course, you are expect to

- ◇ Attend the lectures.
- ◇ Study the readings assigned and try to think through them;
- ◇ Develop the skills mentioned above through discussion and writing (short essays and final paper).
- ◇ Attend all lectures and arrive prepared to discuss the readings and participate in class discussion.

Types of activities and workload:

In-class:

1. Lecture: 3 hours a week (mandatory)

*Out-of-class:

1. Reading: an average of 4-5 hours per week on required and suggested reading assigned for lecture topics, and 2-3 hours on tutorial reading assignments and presentation.
2. Essay writing: an average of 2-3 hour per week on preparing and writing your essay assignments throughout the term. You should arrange your time so as to apportion more hours on writing.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Essays	Final paper	60%
Others	Presentation and short paper	40%

Backup plan for assessment in case face-to-face teaching and assessment is not possible due to the pandemic (no need to fill in if the class and related assessments are to be conducted online)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Recommended learning resources

Dhammajoti, K.L. *Sarvāstivāda Abhidharma*. 5th Edition. The Buddha-Dharma Centre of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, 2015. pp. 640++.

(<https://buddhadharma.co/Sarvastivada-Abhidharma>)

Karunadasa, Y. *The Theravada Abhidhamma: Inquiry into the Nature of Conditioned Reality*. Wisdom Publications, 2019.

Park, Changhwan. *Vasubandhu, Śrīlāta, and the Sautrāntika Theory of Seeds*.

Arbeitskreis für Tibetische und Buddhistische Studien, Universität Wien, 2014.

Vasubandhu. *Abhidharmakośa-Bhāṣya of Vasubandhu: the treasury of the Abhidharma and its (Auto) commentary*, translated into French by Louis de La Vallee Poussin ; annotated English translation by Gelong Lodrö Sangpo; with a new introduction by Bhikkhu KL Dhammajoti. 1st ed Delhi, India: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private Ltd. 2012.

Vasubandhu. *Abhidharmakosabhāṣyam*, 4 Volume Set. L. De La Vallee Poussin (French Translator), Leo M. Pruden (English Translator). Asian Humanities Press, 1990.

Willemen, Charles, Bart Dessein and Collett Cox. *Sarvāstivāda Buddhist Scholasticism*. Brill, 1998.

Zhihua Yao. *Nonexistent Objects in Buddhist Philosophy: On Knowing What There is Not*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2020.

Zhihua Yao. *The Buddhist Theory of Self-Cognition*. Routledge, 2005.

法光 著；譚凌峰、高明元譯《阿毘達磨知覺論之教義與爭論》香港：香港佛法中

心有限公司, 2018 (譯自: *Abhidharma Doctrines and Controversies on Perception*, Fourth edition) (<https://buddhadharma.co/node/191>)
印順《說一切有部為主的論書與論師之研究》1992 (ebook online
<http://cbetaonline.dila.edu.tw/zh/Y0034>)

Course schedule

TBA

Details of course website

We use Blackboard (blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk) for this course. Lecture notes and essay guidelines will be available at the website.

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

Teacher	
Name:	Prof. YAO Zhihua
Office location:	Room 430, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 7431
Email:	zyao@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/academic_honesty/

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.