PHIL5090/7090: Seminar on Western Philosophy
(Subtitle: Ontological Dependence)

Course Outline

Mode of Teaching: Online

Time: Tuesday 2:30-5:15pm

Instructor: Zhong Lei

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Course Overview

> This postgraduate seminar will discuss some important topics regarding ontological dependence, such as grounding, constitution, supervenience, realization, emergence, and physicalism.

Assessment Scheme

Task Nature	Mode of Assessment	Weight
Discussion	Online	20%
Presentation	Online	20%
Term Paper (4,500 words in English or 8,000 words in Chinese)	Take-home	60%

Course Schedule

Week	Content	
1	Introduction	
2	Discussion	Kim, "Explanatory Knowledge and Metaphysical Dependence"
3	Discussion	Rosen, "Metaphysical Dependence: Grounding and Reduction"
4	Discussion	Audi, "Grounding: Toward a Theory of the In Virtue Of Relation"
5	Discussion	Schaffer, "Grounding, Transitivity, and Contrastivity"
6	Discussion	Schaffer, "Is There a Fundamental Level?"
7	Discussion	Baker, "Why Constitution Is Not Identity"

8	Discussion	Zhong, "Physicalism without Supervenience"
9	Discussion	Melnyk, "Realization and the Formulation of Physicalism"
10	Discussion	Stoljar, "Physicalism and the Necessary a Posteriori"
11	Discussion	Crane & Mellor, "There Is No Question of Physicalism"
12	Discussion	Crane, "The Significance of Emergence"
13	Discussion	Zhong, "Taking Emergentism Seriously"

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

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