

**PHIL1110**  
**Introduction to Philosophy 哲學概論**

**Course Outline**

**Mode of teaching:** Online  
**Time:** Tuesday 3:30pm-5:15pm  
**Tutorial time:** TBA

**Course overview**

This course is a general introduction to philosophical thinking and problems. Students will gain a basic familiarity with some of the major philosophical fields, figures and issues; be encouraged to develop their own views and to defend them with critical reasoning. Topics to be discussed may include: notion of philosophy; nature of philosophical problems; the importance of philosophical reflection; methods of philosophy; concepts and theories of self, world, categories, and value; and selected topics in ethics, metaphysics, and the theory of knowledge.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Grasp basic concepts in philosophical thinking.
2. Ability to reflect in a critical manner on philosophical issues and their relations.
3. Understand the importance of philosophical reflection and bring it to bear on things that matter in life.

**Topics**

1. God
2. Personal identity
3. Mind
4. Free will
5. Knowledge about the external world
6. Moral objectivity
7. Right and wrong
8. Liberty

**Learning activities**

1. Lecture: one 2-hour session every week.
2. Tutorial: one 2-hour session every two weeks.
3. Reading: around 30 pages of required reading every week.

### Assessment scheme

<b>Task nature</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Tutorial	Online	25%
Paper	Take-home	35%
Exam	Online	40%

### Required resources

[Textbook] J. Rachels and S. Rachels, *Problems from Philosophy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2011.  
Other selected readings

### Recommended resources

J. Rachels and S. Rachels, *The Truth about the World*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2008.  
*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (<http://plato.stanford.edu>)

### Course schedule (\* indicates recommended readings)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Lectures</b>	<b>Lecture Readings</b>	<b>Tutorial Readings</b>
1	God (1)	Chapter 2, <i>Problems from Philosophy</i>	
2	God (2)	Chapter 3, <i>Problems from Philosophy</i>	
3	Personal identity	Chapter 5, <i>Problems from Philosophy</i>	
4	Mind (1)	Chapter 6, <i>Problems from Philosophy</i>	
5	Mind (2)	Chapter 7, <i>Problems from Philosophy</i>	
6	<b>No Class</b>		
7	Free will (1)	Chapter 8, <i>Problems from Philosophy</i>	
8	Free will (2)	Chapter 9, <i>Problems from Philosophy</i>	
9	Human knowledge	Chapter 10, <i>Problems from Philosophy</i>	
10	Moral objectivity	Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism", from <i>The Elements of Moral Philosophy</i>	

11	Right and wrong	Rachels, "The Debate over Utilitarianism", from <i>The Elements of Moral Philosophy</i>	
12	No Class		
13	No Class		
14	Liberty	Miller, "Freedom and the Limits of Government", from <i>Political Philosophy</i>	
15	Exam		

#### Details of course website

Course readings, lecture notes, and other materials will be put in a Dropbox folder (the link to this folder is posted on Blackboard).

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

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Zhong Lei
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Telephone:	3943 7156
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<b>TA</b>	
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
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## **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](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)