

**PHIL 3652**  
**Topics in Contemporary Western Philosophy 當代西方哲學專題**  
**Levinas: Ethics as First Philosophy 列維納斯：倫理學作為第一哲學**

**Course Outline**

**Mode of Teaching: TBC**

**Time : T 2:30pm-4:15pm**

**Location :**

**ERB 803**

**T 4:30-5:15pm**

**ERB 803**

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

The course aims at an in-depth study of selected works of contemporary Western philosophy. Topics may include: Positivism, Structuralism, Neo-Kantianism, Process Philosophy, British Idealism, American Pragmatism, and other contemporary philosophers such as Frege, G. E. Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, and Quine. Offerings with different subtitles can be taken up for credit, up to a maximum of two times.

**Object:** This course is an introduction to the novel conception of philosophy—“Ethics as First Philosophy”—proposed by the contemporary French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas (1906-1995). Following the development of Levinas’s thought from his early writings to *Totality and Infinity* (1961) and beyond, this course studies Levinas’s original conception of existence, being, the subject and ethics of otherness. In paying attention to Levinas’s subtle relation to Husserl, Heidegger and Sartre, this course will try to show in what way Levinas’s thought has brought about the ethical turn in the phenomenological movement and its influence in Contemporary Western philosophy.

**宗旨：**本科旨在引介當代法國哲學家列維納斯(Emmanuel Levinas, 1906-1995)「倫理學作為第一哲學」這一新穎的哲學概念。透過對列維納斯從早期到《總體與無限》(*Totalité et infini*, 1961)及往後的代表性著作的研讀，本科探討列維納斯有關實存、存在、主體，以及他者的倫理的原創性思考。本科亦會注意列維納斯與胡塞爾、海德格和沙特的微妙關係，以便展示列維納斯思想如何體現了現象學運動中的倫理學轉向，及其對當代西方哲學往後發展的影響。

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

**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. Introduction: Why read Levinas?

導論：為何閱讀列維納斯？

Reading: Hent de Vries, “Levinas”, in *A Companion to Continental Philosophy*, ed. S. Critchley & W. R. Schroeder (Blackwell, 1998), pp. 245-255.

## 2. Levinas's life and times and their relation to his philosophical development

列維納斯的生平、時代，及其哲學道路

Readings:

- a. E. Levinas, *Ethics and Infinity*. Conversations with Philippe Nemo [1982], Eng. trans. R. Cohen (Pittsburg: Duquesne University Press, 1985).
- b. Emmanuel Levinas and Richard Kearney, "Dialogue with Emmanuel Levinas", in *Face to Face with Levinas*, ed. Richard A. Cohen (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1986), pp. 13-33.

## 3. Early enthusiastic encounter with Husserlian phenomenology and Heideggerian ontology

列維納斯的現象學起點：與胡塞爾和海德格的相遇

Readings:

- a. Levinas, *The Theory of Intuition in Husserl's Phenomenology* [1930], Eng. tr. A. Orianne (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1995).
- b. Levinas, "Martin Heidegger and Ontology" [1932], Eng. tr. Committee of Public Safety, *Diacritics* 26 (1), Spring 1996: 11-32.

## 4. Levinas thinker of his time: first awareness of the danger of Hitler's philosophy of force and its threat toward freedom

列維納斯作為時代思想家：對希特勒強力哲學之危險及其對自由之威脅的察覺

Readings: Levinas, "Reflections on the Philosophy of Hitlerism" [1934], Eng. tr. S. Hand, *Critical Inquiry* 17 (1990), 63-71.

## 5. New thinking of existence and departure from Heideggerian ontology

走出存在論及關於實存的新穎思考

Reading:

- a. Levinas, *On Escape* [1935], Eng. tr. B. Bergo (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003)
- b. Levinas, *Existence and Existents* [1947], Eng. tr. A. Lingis (The Hague: M. Nijhoff, 1978).

## 6. First formulation of the question of the Other

他人問題的初步陳構

Reading: Levinas, *Time and the Other* [1947], Eng. tr. R. Cohen (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1987)

## 7. Primacy of the Other and radical criticism of Heideggerian ontology and reappraisal of Husserlian phenomenology

他人的先在性：對海德格存在論的徹底批判與對胡塞爾現象學的重新評價

Readings:

- a. Levinas, "Is Ontology Fundamental?" [1951], Eng. tr. M. B. Smith and B. Harshav, in *Entre nous: on Thinking-of-the-other* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), pp. 1-12.
- b. Levinas, "Philosophy and the Idea of Infinity" [1957], Eng. tr. Alphonse Lingis, in Emmanuel Levinas, *Collected Philosophical Papers* (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1998), pp. 47-59.
- c. "Ethics as first philosophy" [1982], Eng. tr. S. Hand & M. Temple, in *The Levinas Reader*, ed. Seán Hand (Oxford & Cambridge: Blackwell, 1989), pp. 75-87.

## 8. Ethics as first philosophy and its elaboration in *Totality and Infinity* [1961], Eng. tr. A. Lingis (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1969).

「倫理學作為第一哲學」及其在《總體與無限》中的開展

- a. Critique of the history of Western philosophy as totalization: the project of *Totality and Infinity*

對西方哲學史作為總體化思維的批判：《總體與無限》的整體規劃

Reading: *Totality and Infinity*, “Preface”, pp. 21-30.

b. The face as key to the Other and transcendence

面容作為通往他者及超越之路

Reading: *Totality and Infinity*, Section I. “The Same and the Other. A. Metaphysics and transcendence”, pp. 33-52.

c. Ontological separation and phenomenology of enjoyment and suffering

存在論的分離、享樂與痛苦的現象學

Reading: *Totality and Infinity*, Section II, “Interiority and Economy. A. Separation as Life. B. Enjoyment and Representation. C. I and Dependence”, pp. 109-151.

d. The ethical dimension of the face: exit from phenomenology and ontology

面容的倫理面向：走出現象學與存在論

Reading: *Totality and Infinity*, Section III. “Exteriority and the Face. A. Sensibility and the Face. B. Ethics and the Face”, pp. 187-219.

e. Phenomenology of Warfare violence and transcendence of the Other

戰爭暴力的現象學與他者的超越性

Reading: *Totality and Infinity*, “The Ethical Relation and Time”, pp. 220-247.

f. Phenomenology of eros and fecundity: multiplicity of the figures of Otherness

愛欲及生育的現象學：他者的眾多形態

Reading: *Totality and Infinity*, “Beyond the Face”, pp. 254-285.

9. Levinas’s influence

列維納斯的影響

a. Derrida’s first critical reception of Levinas’s philosophy

Reading: J. Derrida, “Violence and Metaphysics. An Essay on the Thought of Emmanuel Levinas” [1963], Eng. tr. A. Bass, in *Writing and Difference* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978), pp. 79-153.

b. How to think beyond ontology? Levinas’s radicalization of his philosophical ethics

E. Levinas, “Substitution” [1968], in Emmanuel Levinas, *Basic Philosophical Writings*, ed. A. T. Peperzak, S. Critchley, and R. Bernasconi (Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1996), pp. 79-95.

c. Toward an ethical politics

Levinas, “Peace and Proximity” [1984], in Emmanuel Levinas, *Basic Philosophical Writings*, pp. 161-169.

10. Conclusion: Western philosophy after Levinas

結論：列維納斯之後的西方哲學

References 參考書

I) Introductory Essays 入門文章

1. Bergo, Bettina. "Emmanuel Levinas", in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2006/2011; <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/levinas/>
2. Critchley, Simon. "Introduction", in *The Cambridge Companion to Levinas*, ed. S. Critchley & R. Bernasconi (Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 1-32.
3. Moran, Dermot. "Emmanuel Levinas: the phenomenology of alterity", in *Introduction to Phenomenology*, Ch. 10 (London & New York: 2000), pp. 320-353.
4. 劉國英：〈他人的先在性——列維納斯對西方哲學傳統的顛覆〉，《現象學與中國哲學評論》，第 19 輯，2016，頁 181-209。

## II) Introductory Books 入門書籍

5. Hand, Seán. *Emmanuel Levinas* (London & New York: Routledge, 2009).
6. Davis, Colin. *Levinas. An Introduction* (Cambridge: Polity, 1996).
7. Peperzak, Adriaan. *To the Other: an Introduction to the Philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas* (West Lafayette, Ind.: Perdu University Press, 1993).
8. Kemp, Peter. *Levinas. Une introduction philosophique* (Fougère: Encre marine, 1997).
9. Sebbah, François-David. *Lévinas* (Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 2000).
10. Petrosino, Silvano et Rolland, Jacques. *La vérité nomade. Introduction à Emmanuel Lévinas* (Paris: La Découverte, 1984).
11. Akamatsu, Etienne. *Comprendre Levinas* (Paris: Armand Colin, 2011).

## III) Monographs 專論

12. Burggraave, Roger. *The Wisdom of Love in the Service of Love. Emmanuel Levinas on Justice, Peace, and the Human Rights* (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2007).
13. Caygill, Howard. *Levinas and the Political* (London & New York: Routledge, 2002).
14. Chalièr, Catherine. *Lévinas. L'utopie de l'humain* (Paris: Albin Michel, 1993).
15. Critchley, Simon. *The Ethics of Deconstruction. Derrida and Levinas* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1992).
16. Dekens, Olivier. *Politique de l'autre homme. Lévinas et la fonction politique de la philosophie* (Paris: Éditions Ellipses, 2003)
17. Franck, Didier. *L'un-pour-l'autre. Levinas et la signification* (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 2008).
18. Habib, Stéphane. *La responsabilité chez Sartre et Lévinas* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 1998).
19. Keenan, Dennis King. *Death and Responsibility. The "Work" of Levinas* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1999).
20. Llewelyn, John. *Emmanuel Levinas: the Genealogy of Ethics* (London & New York : Routledge, 1995).
21. Lyotard, Jean-François. *Logique de Levinas* (Lagrasse: Éditions Verdier, 2015).
22. Peperzak, Adriaan. *Beyond. The Philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas* (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1997).
23. Rey, Jean-François. *Lévinas. Le passeur de justice* (Paris: Éditions Michalon, 1997).
24. Sebbach, François-David. *L'éthique du survivant. Levinas, une philosophie de la débâcle* (Nanterre: Presses universitaires de Paris Nanterre, 2018).
25. 孫向晨：《面對他者：萊維納斯哲學思想研究》（上海：上海三聯書店，2008）
26. 賴俊雄：《他者哲學：回歸列維納斯》（台北：城邦文化，2009）。
27. 賴俊雄：《回應他者：列維納斯再探》（台北：書林，2014）。
28. 王恒：《時間性：自身與他者。從胡塞爾、海德格爾到列維納斯》（南京：江蘇人民出版社，2008）。

#### IV) Collections of Essays 論文集

29. Bernasconi, Robert & Simon Critchley (eds). *Re-Reading Levinas* (Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1991).
30. Bernasconi, Robert & David Wood (eds). *The Provocation of Levinas. Rethinking the Other* (London & New York: Routledge, 1988).
31. Bloechl, Jeffrey (ed). *The Face of the Other and the Trace of God. Essays on the Philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2000).
32. Cohen, Richard A. (ed.) *Face to Face with Levinas* (Albany, N.Y. : State University of New York Press, 1986).
33. Cohen-Levinas, Danielle et Crépon, Marc. *Levinas-Derrida: lire ensemble* (Paris: Hermann Éditeurs, 2015).
34. Cohen-Levinas, D. et Schnell, A. (éd.). *Relire Totalité et infini d'Emmanuel Levinas* (Paris: Vrin, 2015).
35. Cohen-Levinas, D. et Schnell, A. (éd.). *Relire Autrement qu'être ou au-delà de l'essence d'Emmanuel Levinas* (Paris: Vrin, 2015).
36. Critchley, Simon & R. Bernasconi (eds). *The Cambridge Companion to Levinas* (Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002).
37. Greisch, Jean et Rolland, Jacques. *Emmanuelle Lévinas. L'éthique comme philosophie première* (Paris: Les Éditions du Cerf, 1993).
38. Hand, Seán (ed.) *Facing the Other. The Ethics of Emmanuel Levinas* (Richmond, Surrey: Curzon, 1996).
39. Katz, Claire (ed.) *Emmanuel Levinas, Critical Assessments of Leading Philosophers, V. 1. Levinas, phenomenology and his critics; V. 2. Levinas and the history of philosophy; V. 3. Levinas and the question of religion; V. 4. Beyond Levinas* (Abingdon, Oxon ; New York : Routledge, 2005)
40. Laruelle, François. *Textes pour Emmanuelle Lévinas* (Paris: Éditions Jean-Michel Place, 1980).
41. Peperzak, Adriaan T. (ed.) *Ethics as First Philosophy. The Significance of Emmanuel Levinas for Philosophy, Literature and Religion* (London & New York: 1995).

#### V) Other References 其他參考文獻

42. Lau, Kwok-ying. "War, Peace and Love. The Logic of Lévinas", *Social Imaginaries*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2015, pp. 103-126.
43. 劉國英：〈他者的哲學與解構論說的倫理意涵——從德里達回到列維納斯〉，《法國現象學的蹤跡——從沙特到德里達》，第13章（台北：漫遊者文化），2018，頁345—366。
44. 劉國英：〈戰爭、和平與愛——列維納斯的邏輯〉，《法國現象學的蹤跡——從沙特到德里達》，第14章（台北：漫遊者文化），2018，頁367—402。
45. 劉國英：〈解構死亡——現象學的進路及其蛻變〉，載《凝視死亡——死與人間的多元省思》，梁美儀、張燦輝合編（香港：中文大學出版社，2005），頁19-38。

#### Learning activities

Lectures & Tutorials

#### Tutorial Readings

1. a. "Reflections on the Philosophy of Hitlerism"
  - b. *On Escape*, pp. 49-73.
  - c. "There is: Existence without Existents", *The Levinas Reader*, pp. 29-36.
2. a. "Time and the Other", *The Levinas Reader*, pp. 37-58.

- b. "Philosophy and the Idea of Infinity"
- c. "Ethics as first philosophy", in *The Levinas Reader*, pp. 75-87.
- 3. a. "The Same and the Other. A. Metaphysics and transcendence", *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 33-52.
- b. "Interiority and Economy. A. Separation as Life", *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 109-121.
- c. "Interiority and Economy. C. I and Dependence", *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 143-151.
- 4. a. "Exteriority and the Face. A. Sensibility and the Face. B. Ethics and the Face", *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 187-219.
- 5. a. "The Ethical Relation and Time", *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 220-247.
- b. "Beyond the Face. A. The ambiguity of love. B. Phenomenology of eros. C. Fecundity. D. The subjectivity in eros", *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 254-273.

**E. Written assignments**

1. Mid-term short essay (20%), about 2,000 words in Chinese or 1,000 words in English. Topics and due date to be announced.
  
2. Final essay (50%), about 5,000 words in Chinese or 2,500 words in English. Topics and due date to be announced.

**Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)**

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Final Essay		50%
Tutorial: Presentation & discussion		30%
Mid-term short essay		20%

**Backup plan for assessment in case face-to-face teaching and assessment is not possible due to the pandemic**

<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](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)

**Recommended learning resources**

**Course schedule**

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Teaching Mode</i> <i>Online / in-campus</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>

**Details of course website**

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

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Prof. LAU Kwok-ying
Office location:	Room 427, Fung King Hey Building
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<b>TA</b>	
Name:	Mr. LEE Ka Ho
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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.