

PHIL2302
Guided Studies in Western Philosophical Classics 西方哲學原典導讀
Sub-Topic: Descartes

Course Outline

Time : M 10:30-13:15

Location: HYSG04

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This is an undergraduate seminar course devoted to reading and interpreting selected works in Western philosophy and discussing the interpretive and philosophical issues raised by the text. The specific content of the course varies from semester to semester. Offerings with different subtitles can be taken up for credit, up to a maximum of two times.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Understand the historical and cultural backgrounds of the philosophical classic selected for reading.
2. Read and interpret the text, to analyze the content, to identify philosophical issues addressed, and to evaluate the arguments.

Topics

Understand *Descartes's Meditations on First Philosophy*

Learning activities

Read the text

Translate the text

Interpret the text

Analyze the text

Presentation

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Essay		40%
Presentations		30%
Tutorials		30%

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

- Ariew R. 2011. *Descartes among the Scholastics*. Leiden: Brill.
- Ariew, R., Cottingham, J. & Sorell, T. (trans. and eds.), 1998. *Descartes' Meditations: Background Source Materials*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bracken, H. M. 2002. *Descartes*. Oxford: Oneworld.
- Broughton, J. & Carriero, J. (eds), 2008. *A Companion to Descartes*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Clarke, D. M. 2003. *Descartes Theory of Mind*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Clarke, D. M. 2006. *Descartes: A Biography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cottingham, J. (ed.), 1992. *The Cambridge Companion to Descartes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cottingham, J. 1993. *A Descartes Dictionary*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Cunning, D. 2010. *Argument and Persuasion in Descartes' Meditations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Cunning, D. (ed.), 2014. *The Cambridge Companion to Descartes' Meditations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Detlefsen, K. (ed.), 2012. *Descartes' Meditations: A Critical Guide*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dicker G. 2013. *Descartes: An Analytical and Historical Introduction*, second edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Garber, D. 1992. *Descartes' Metaphysical Physics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Rorty, A. O. (ed.), 1986. *Essays on Descartes' Meditations*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Secada, J. 2000. *Cartesian Metaphysics: The Scholastic Origins of Modern Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sorell, T. 2000. *Descartes: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Williams, B. 2005. *Descartes: The Project of Pure Enquiry*. London: Routledge.
- Wilson, C. 2003. *Descartes's Meditations: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>
1	6/9	Introduction	Descartes: <i>Discourse on the Method</i>	
2	13/6	Doubt	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i> , Preface & 1	
3	20/9	Mind	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i> 2	1 st section
4	27/9	Idea	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i> 3	
5	4/10	Idea	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i> 3	
6	11/10	Truth	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i> 4	2 nd section
7	18/10	God	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i> 5	
8	25/10	Body	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i> 6	3 rd section
9	1/11	Body	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i> 6	
10	8/11	Objective reality	First Objection	4 th section
11	15/11	Objective reality	First Reply	
12	22/11	God	Second Objection	5 th section
13	29/11	God	Second Reply	

Tutorial Materials

1. Markie, P. "The Cogito and its importance." In J. Cottingham (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Descartes*, pp.140-173. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
2. Brown, D. J. "Descartes on True and False Ideas." In J. Broughton and J. Carriero (eds.), *A Companion to Descartes*, pp.196-214. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008.
3. Gewirth, A. "Clearness and Distinctness in Descartes." *Philosophy*, Vol. 18, No. 69 (1943), pp. 17-36.
4. Rozemond, M. "Descartes's Dualism." In J. Broughton and J. Carriero (eds.), *A Companion to Descartes*, pp.372-389. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008.
5. Heidegger, M. "A Contrast between our Analysis of Worldhood and Descartes' Interpretation of the World." In *Being and Time*, translated by J. Macquarrie & E. Robinson, pp.122-134. Oxford: Blackwell, 1962.

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

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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.