

## Course Outline (General Education)<sup>1</sup>

Course Code/Section: UGED2321	Year: 2021-22	Term 1
Course Title: Human Happiness 幸福論		
Time/Venue:	Course website:	
Course Teacher: Dr. Wong Kim Fan	Email: kimfanwong@cuhk.edu.hk	Phone:
Office Location:	Office Hours:	
Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	Email:	Phone:
Office Location:	Office Hours:	

### Course overview: *(as per the course description approved by Senate Committee on GE<sup>2</sup>)*

This course is a philosophical discussion of the idea of happiness. The first part covers major theories of happiness from Western and Chinese tradition. The second part deals with the theoretical issues of happiness: the definition of happiness; distinction between pleasure, happiness, and unhappiness; attainability of happiness; hedonism and eudaemonism; and the meaning of happiness in the contemporary world.

本科旨在以哲學觀點討論幸福的意義。第一部份介紹中西文化傳統中有關幸福的重要理論。第二部份探討幸福的理論問題:幸福的定義、快樂與幸福的區分、幸福的獲致、享樂思想與幸福理想,以及現代世界中幸福的問題。

### Learning outcomes: *(based on the learning outcomes approved by Senate Committee on GE)*

1. Identify the many facets of happiness and the complexity of the issues involved;
2. Critically analyze and evaluate how the idea of happiness has been shaped in the modern world;
3. Conceptualize various philosophical thoughts of human happiness throughout history;
4. Reflect upon and analyze ethical, psychological, and anthropological questions concerning human happiness;
5. Elaborate on the complexity and subjectivity of the issues of human happiness;
6. Cultivate intellectual interests in thinking about the relationship between happiness and human value.

### Learning Activities: *(as per the learning activities approved by Senate Committee on GE)*

In this course, you are expected to

- read and think about the assigned readings;
- develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing (short essays, examination essays, and summaries of tutorial readings);
- attend *all* lectures/tutorials to participate in discussion.

*Activities and workload:*

<sup>1</sup> Detailed guidelines and procedures for writing course outlines are available at the [Course Planning website of Centre for Learning Enhancement and Research](#). Please read also the [policies for teaching and assessment of GE courses](#) under the staff area of [OUGE website](#).

<sup>2</sup> Approved course design of UGE/CGE courses can be obtained from your department office/ relevant College GE Office.

In-class (mandatory):		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lecture: 2 hours each week.</li> <li>2. Interactive tutorial: one 2-hour session every two weeks.</li> </ol>		
<u>Weekly Course Schedule and reading assignment:</u>		
Week/Date	Topic	Required readings <sup>3</sup> /other requirements
1.	Introduction	
2.	Tragedy of Happiness	希羅多德《歷史》，頁 12-17
3.	Hedonism	Eduard Zeller, <i>Outline of the History of Greek Philosophy</i> , pp.112-115
4.	Epicurus and Garden Philosophy	Epicurus, "Letter to Menoecus", pp.465-472
5.	Utilitarianism (1)	
6.	Utilitarianism (2)	Geoffrey Scarve, "The Greatest Happiness of the Greatest Number", pp.154-171
7.	Pessimism	漆木朵《幻日手記》，頁 12-51; 叔本華《叔本華選集》，頁 43-49
8.	Stoicism (1)	Forrest E. Baird, "Epictetus" and "Marcus Aurelius", pp.486-525
9.	Stoicism (2)	
10.	Taoist Philosophy	
11.	Buddhist Philosophy	Robert Nozick, "The Experience Machine", pp.644-646
12.	Aristotle's Philosophy	
13.	Human Happiness: Conclusion	

<p><u>Required readings and other recommended readings/ learning resources:</u></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Davies, William. (2015). <i>The Happiness Industry: How the Government and Big Business Sold us Well-Being</i>. London: Verso.</li> <li>2. <i>Happiness : Classic and Contemporary Readings in Philosophy</i> / edited by Steven M. Cahn, Christine Vitrano (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008).</li> <li>3. White, Nicholas (2006). <i>A Brief History of Happiness</i>, Malden, Mass.; Oxford: Blackwell Pub.</li> <li>4. McMahon, Darrin (2006), <i>The Pursuit of Happiness</i>. London: Penguin Books.</li> </ol>
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<sup>3</sup> Please specify chapters/pages to be read.

#### Recommended readings:

1. Becker, Lawrence C. (1998), *A New Stoicism*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
2. Frey, Brunos. (2002), *Happiness and Economics: How the Economy and Constitutions Affect Well-being*. Oxford: Princeton University Press.
3. Gotz, Ignacio L. (1995), *Conceptions of Happiness*. Lanham, N.Y.: University Press of America.
4. Haidt, Jonathan. (2006). *The Happiness Hypothesis: Finding Modern Truth in Ancient Wisdom*. New York: Basic Books.
5. Kelly, Matthew. (2016). *Resisting Happiness*. USA: Beacon.
6. Lear, Jonathan. (2000). *Happiness, Death and the Remainder of Life*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University.
7. Luper-Foy, Steven (1996), *Invulnerability: On Securing Happiness*. Chicago: Open Court.
8. McFall, Lynne (1989), *Happiness*, New York: Peter Lang.
9. McGill, V.J. (1967), *The Idea of Happiness*. New York: Praeger.
10. Nussbaum, Martha (1994), *The Therapy of Desire*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
11. Nussbaum, Martha (1986), *The Fragility of Goodness*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
12. Pasricha, Neil. (2016). *The Happiness Equation: Want Nothing + Do Anything = Have Everything*. New York: Putnam.
13. Rouner, Leroy S. ed. (1995), *In Pursuit Of Happiness*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press.
14. Schoch, Richard. (2007), *The Secrets of Happiness*. London: Profile Books.
15. Tatariewicz, W. (1976), *Analysis of Happiness*. The Hague: M Nijhoff.
16. Telfer, Elizabeth (1980), *Happiness*. London: Macmillan.
17. 陳瑛主編 (1996)：《人生幸福論》。北京：中國青年出版社。
18. 周輔成(1987)：《西方倫理學名著選輯》(上、下)。北京：商務印書館。
19. 巴斯卡•卡律克內著(2002)：陳太乙譯：《幸福書：追求生命的永恆喜悅》台北：究竟出版社。

#### Assessment scheme:

Assessment component	Description	Weight (%)
1. Tutorial participation	Discussion and presentation	35%
2. Short report	1,200 – 1,600 words	25%
3. Take-home examination	3 essay type questions: 1 compulsory question and 2 selective questions	40%

#### 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 are required to submit a [signed declaration](#) (attachment 1) 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.

#### Feedback for evaluation

- a. Course and teaching evaluation survey will be conducted in the second last week of the course. Students are reminded of their responsibility and right to give feedback to facilitate enhancement of the course.
- b. Students are welcome to give feedbacks to the course teacher at any time in person or through

emails.

Grade Descriptors:

[http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)) in you course outline

Attachment 1

Declaration for written assignment

I am/we are submitting the assignment for:

- an individual project or
- a group project on behalf of all members of the group. It is hereby confirmed that the submission is authorized by all members of the group, and all members of the group are required to sign this declaration.

I/We declare that the assignment here submitted is original except for source material explicitly acknowledged, the piece of work, or a part of the piece of work has not been submitted for more than one purpose (i.e. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration, and that the submitted soft copy with details listed in the <Submission Details> is identical to the hard copy(ies), if any, which has(have) been / is(are) going to be submitted. I/We also acknowledge that I am/we are aware of University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and of the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations, as contained in the University website <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. In the case of a group project, we are aware that each student is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.

It is also understood that assignments without a properly signed declaration by the student concerned and in the case of a group project, by all members of the group concerned, will not be graded by the teacher(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student ID(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Course code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Course title