

PHIL1110
Introduction to Philosophy 哲學概論

Course Outline

Time : T 3:30pm-6:15pm

Location :

LSB LT2

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

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 (as shown on CUSIS)

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

- Philosophy and Critical Thinking
- The Meaning of Life
- God
- The Nature of Reality
- The Search for Truth
- Self
- Freedom
- Morality and the Good Life
- Justice and the Good Society
- Beauty

Learning activities

Course expectations:

- Actively read and reflect on the required course readings
- Attend all lectures and tutorials and actively participate
- Demonstrate that course learning outcomes have been achieved by discussion contributions and written assignments

Activities and workload:

In-class (mandatory):

- Lecture/Seminar Discussion: 3 hours each week.

Out-of-class (average workload per week):

- Reading: 3–4 hours on the basic and suggested readings each week.
- Writing Assignments: Approx. 1 hour each week on preparing and writing argument rehearsals and take-home exams.
- Final Exam: Approx. 1 hour each week for preparation. You should make sure that you reserve more time towards the end of the semester.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

| <i>Task nature</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Weight</i> |
|--------------------|---|---------------|
| Participation | Attendance, active class participation (discussion and occasionally minor in-class assignments) | 10% |
| Reflection Papers | Summary and evaluation of reading | 20% |
| Take-Home Exams | Short-answer format | 35% |
| Final Exam | Format TBA | 35% |

Grade Descriptor

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

Required learning resources

R.C. Solomon and K.M. Higgins. *The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy*. 10th edition. Boston: Cengage, 2019.

Recommended learning resources

Additional resources will be made available through the course website.

Course schedule

| <i>Week</i> | <i>Topics</i> | <i>Required reading</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 – 01.11 | Introduction | | |
| 2 – 01.18 | Critical Thinking | TBQ pp. 1-24 | |
| 3 – 01.25 | Philosophical Questions | TBQ Ch. 1 | |
| 4 – 02.01 | NO CLASS | | |
| 5 – 02.08 | The Meaning of Life | TBQ Ch. 2 | 02.11: Reflection Paper #1 Due |
| 6 – 02.15 | God | TBQ Ch. 3 | |
| 7 – 02.22 | The Nature of Reality | TBQ Ch. 4 | |
| 8 – 03.01 | The Search for Truth | TBQ Ch. 5 | 03.04: Take-Home Exam #1 Due |
| 9 – 03.08 | Self | TBQ Ch. 6 | |
| 10 – 03.15 | Freedom | TBQ Ch. 7 | |

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|------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 11 – 03.22 | Morality and the Good Life | TBQ Ch. 8 | 03.25: Reflection Paper #2 Due |
| 12 – 03.29 | Justice and the Good Society | TBQ Ch. 9 | |
| 13 – 04.05 | NO CLASS | | |
| 14 – 04.12 | Beauty | TBQ Ch. 10 | |
| 15 – 04.19 | Conclusion | | Take-Home Exam #2 Due |

Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check announcements regularly (i.e., at least once daily, excluding weekends and holidays)

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

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| Teacher | |
| Name: | Kee, Hayden |
| Office location: | Room 430, Fung King Hey Building |
| Telephone: | 3943 7148 |
| Email: | ____@cuhk.edu.hk |

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/academic_honesty/

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.