

**PHIL2050**  
**History of Western Philosophy II 西方哲學史 (二)**

**Course Outline**

**Time : H 1:30pm-4:15pm**

**Location :**

**KKB 101**

**Office Hours: H 11-12am**

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

The course introduces students to the history of modern Western philosophy. Topics include: philosophical backgrounds and movements leading to modern philosophy, the confrontation between rationalism and empiricism, Kant's critical philosophy, Hegel's idealism, and other 19th-century philosophical developments.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2.

**Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)**

The course introduces students to the history of modern Western philosophy. Topics include: philosophical backgrounds and movements leading to modern philosophy, the confrontation between rationalism and empiricism, Kant's critical philosophy, Hegel's idealism, and other 19th-century philosophical developments.

**Topics**

Rationalism

Empiricism

Kant's Critical Idealism

**Learning activities**

Attend lectures and participate in class discussions. Each lecture is approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

**Assessment scheme**

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Argument Reconstruction	See Remarks.	10%
Argument Critique I	See Remarks.	25%
Seminar Paper	See Remarks.	65%

**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)

### Argument Reconstruction:

I shall provide you with passages from the texts which we are reading, and I will ask you to choose one passage to work on. You will re-construct the argument contained in that passage. Reconstructing the argument will require you to carefully explicate the premises, (both implicit and explicit) and the conclusion of the argument. In order to succeed on this assignment, students must re-phrase the arguments *in their own words*. No quotations of the passage will be allowed. There is *no length requirement* for this assignment.

### Argument Critiques:

The Argument Critiques consist of three parts. In respect to the critique, I shall provide you with passages from the texts which we are reading, and I will ask you to choose one passage to work on. You will re-construct the argument contained in that passage, and formulate a critique of that passage. The last stage consists in formulating a reply to the criticism that you raise. I encourage you to utilize the texts that we are reading in formulating the criticisms; you are encouraged to employ the philosophers against each other. Argument Critiques in 12 point font should probably range from 3 to 6 double spaced pages in length.

### Seminar Paper:

The seminar paper will require students to uncover a philosopher problem in one of the texts that we have read together and clearly explicate that problem. Following the explication of the problem, students should work through various solutions to the problem and clearly formulate their own thesis concerning that problem. Students are welcome to use their Argument Critiques as a possible groundwork for their Seminar Paper. The term paper requires students to consult and cite at least one work of secondary literature in addition to the required readings. The term paper should *not* be more than 6-8 double spaced pages.

### Late Work/Make-Ups:

In order to receive a grade for an assignment, **all late work should be submitted by December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. If you would like a grade changed, you must provide me with a detailed written argument for why you think it should be changed, otherwise I will not consider it.

### Required Readings

René Descartes, *Meditations*

David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*

Immanuel Kant, *The Critique of Pure Reason*

### Recommended Readings

See Blackboard

<b>Week</b>	<b>Teaching Mode <i>Online / in-campus</i></b>	<b>Required reading</b> [PDFs supplied via Blackboard]
1	TBD	René Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>
2	TBD	René Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>
3	TBD	René Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>

4	TBD	René Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>
5	TBD	David Hume, <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>
6	TBD	David Hume, <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>
7	TBD	David Hume, <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>
8	TBD	David Hume, <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>
9	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>
10	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>
11	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>
12	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>
13	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>
14	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>

**Details of course website**

We will use Blackboard for this course. Lecture notes and information on assignments and papers will be posted on the website.

**Contact details for the Teacher and the TA(s):**

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Moss, Gregory
Office location:	Room 426, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 9875
Email:	gsmoss@cuhk.edu.hk

<b>TA</b>	
Name:	TBD
Office location:	TBD
Telephone:	TBD
Email:	TBD

### **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/](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.