

**PHIL3693**  
**Topics in Political Philosophy 政治哲學專題**

**‘Intellectual Virtues (and Vices) and Political Philosophy’**

**Course Outline (Revised on January 4, 2022)**

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Lecture: Thursday 10:30am-12:45pm</b> | <b>Location : ELB 206</b> |
|--|---------------------------|

**Course overview**

General description:

The course examines selected topics in political philosophy. 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.

More specific description:

**Course title:** ‘Intellectual Virtues (and Vices) and Political Philosophy’

**Introduction:** Suppose you agree with me that the moral character of government officials and politicians matters. What about their intellectual character? Should they (like university students?) care about truth, facts, and intellectual honesty? Why? Maybe officials and politicians in general are hopeless (?). If so, what about the intellectual character of ordinary citizens (you and me)? Should we be intellectually virtuous? What exactly is the relation between a person’s moral character and her intellectual character? In this course, we will try to answer these questions. This is an advanced philosophy course, and it lies at the intersection of ethics, political philosophy, and epistemology.

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

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

1. Understand the key concepts, major issues, and prominent positions in the selected topics of the course.
2. Critically discuss and evaluate the major issues and positions in the topics.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary/secondary source texts.
4. Demonstrate skills in argumentative discussion and in writing about issues in political philosophy.
5. Demonstrate ability to articulate and defend one’s own philosophical theses with clarity.

**Topics** (*A detailed course outline will be available later.*)

**Learning activities**

1. Attending lectures
2. Reading (advice: read slowly and carefully) and discussing
3. Writing (advice: write carefully and anticipate objections to your views)

**\*Late (關於遲到): Please don’t be late. If you arrive later than 10:40am, you may be asked not to enter the classroom;** classroom is *not* café with people coming in at any time. :-)

**Assessment: updated on January 4, 2022.**

| <i>Task nature</i>                    | <i>Description</i>  | <i>Weight</i> |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Lecture cum in-class writing exercise | From Week 3, there will be in-class writing exercise each time. Details will be announced in the first lecture. | 20%           |
| Revision class (aka reading group)    | Normally, there will be 6 sessions. About 1.5 hour for each session. Details will be announced in due course.   | 18%           |
| Mid-term essay                        | About 2500 words, excluding notes (if in English).  | 22%           |
| Final essay                           | About 3500 words, excluding notes (if in English).  | 40%           |

**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**

Baehr, Jason (2011). *The Inquiring Mind: On Intellectual Virtues and Virtue Epistemology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Baron, Marcia; Pettit, Philip; Slote, Michael (1997). *Three Methods of Ethics*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Darwall, Stephen (ed.) (2003). *Virtue Ethics*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Edenberg, Elizabeth and Hannon, Michael (eds.) (2021). *Political Epistemology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fricker, Miranda (2007). *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Miller, David (2003). *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Wolff, Jonathan (2016) *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Course schedule (A detailed course outline will be provided in due course.)**

| <i>Week</i> | <i>Topics</i> | <i>Teaching Mode</i><br><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)

| Teacher          |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Name:            | MANG, Fan Lun Franz              |
| Office location: | Room 436, Fung King Hey Building |
| Telephone:       | 3943 7153                        |
| Email:           | flmang@cuhk.edu.hk               |

| TA               |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Name:            | TAI, On Derek |
| Office location: |               |
| Telephone:       |               |
| Email:           |               |

### 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.