PHIL1110
Introduction to Philosophy 哲學概論

Course Outline

Time：T 2:30pm-5:15pm   Location：TBA

Instructor: Gregory S. Moss

Office: Room 436, Fung King Hey Building

Office Hours: Per Appointment

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 Rhetoric

Knowledge and Skepticism

Logical Paradoxes

The Problem of Faith and Reason

Metaphysics and the Origin of the World

The Existence of God(s)

Meta-Ethics: The Relation Between the Is and the Ought

The Nature of Consciousness and Mind

The Problem of Self-Consciousness

The Problem of Self-Identity

Mimetic Desire

Theories of the Good

Free Will and Determinism

Learning activities

Attend lectures and participate in class discussions.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS

Task nature	*Description*	*Weight*
Participation	See Critical Remarks on Assessment	10%
Argument Reconstruction	See Critical Remarks on Assessment	15%
Argument Critique	See Critical Remarks on Assessment	35%
Seminar Paper	See Critical Remarks on Assessment	40%

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (In Case the Course Moves Online)

*Same as Above

Critical Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Class Participation:

Attendance is mandatory and *absence will damage your grades*. Two unexcused absences are permitted. For each unexcused absence beyond two, one-half a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade. In case of emergencies, either notify me of your absence ahead of time, or plan to bring some formal documentation of your absence. Without documentation, I will not accept absences as excused.

Argument Reconstruction:

The instructor will provide you with passages from the texts which we are reading, and will ask you to choose one passage to work on. You will reconstruct 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.

Argument Critiques:

The Argument Critiques consist of three parts. In respect to the papers, 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 formulate 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 should be 3-4 double spaced pages in length.

Seminar Paper:

The term 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. I highly recommend that students use one of their Argument Critiques as a possible groundwork for their Term 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 5-7 double spaced pages.

Late Work/Make-Ups:

Late assignments will be penalized one-half a letter grade for each day the paper is tardy. If students would like a grade changed, students must provide me with a detailed written argument for why the grade should be changed, otherwise I will not consider it.

Grade Descriptor

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

Required Texts:

All required texts will be provided online via Blackboard.

Course schedule

Week	Topic	Requirements
1	Introductory Lecture	
2	Philosophy and Rhetoric	
3	Knowledge, Truth, and Skepticism	
4	Logical Paradoxes	
5	The Problem of Faith and Reason	Argument Reconstruction Due
6	Metaphysics and the Problem of the World	
7	The Existence of God(s)	
8	Free Will and Determinism	
9	The Nature of Consciousness and Mind	Argument Critique Due
10	The Problem of Self-Consciousness	
11	The Problem of Self-Identity and Mimetic Desire	
12	Meta-Ethics: The Is and the Ought	
13	Concluding Lecture	Seminar Paper Due

Details of course website

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

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

Teacher	
Name:	Moss, Gregory
Office location:	Room 436, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 9875
Email:	gsmoss@cuhk.edu.hk

TA	
Name:	Frank Lam
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.