

PHIL 3662
Topics in Anglo-American Philosophy 英美哲學專題
God: Existence and Nature 上帝：存在與本質

Course Outline

Time : T 10:30m-1:15pm	Location: ERB803
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Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

The course examines selected topics in Anglo-American 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. On this course, we will study two major issues about God in the analytic tradition, namely (a) whether (the Anselmian or classical theistic conception of) God exists and (b) what attributes God, on this classical theistic conception, should have. The former part of this course, which will be devoted to the first issue, will cover classical arguments for/against God's existence, including (i) ontological arguments, (ii) cosmological arguments, (iii) teleological arguments, (iv) problems of evil, and (v) arguments from divine hiddenness. The remaining part of the course will then examine some issues regarding various alleged divine attributes, e.g. (i) omnipotence, (ii) omniscience, (iii) perfect goodness, (iv) freedom, and (v) simplicity.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above. It is recommended that students take 'Metaphysics' and 'logic' before.

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 Anglo-American philosophy.
5. Demonstrate ability to articulate and defend one's own philosophical theses with clarity.

Learning activities

- a. Lecture: 2 hours a week
- b. Tutorial: 2 hours every two weeks
- c. Reading: One or two articles for every lecture; one article for every tutorial
- d. Writing: One essay (2000-3000 words) on any argument about God's existence and one essay (2000-3000 words) on any divine attribute.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Class participation and discussion		10%
Tutorial		20%
Essay#1	2000-3000 words; Deadline: 30 Oct 23:59	35%
Essay#2	2000-3000 words; Deadline: 11 Dec 23:59	35%

Backup plan for assessment in case face-to-face teaching and assessment is not possible due to the pandemic

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

Wainwright, William (ed.), 2005, *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Religion*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Copan, Paul and Chad Meister (eds.), 2013, *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Religion*, London: Routledge.

Mann, William (ed.), 2005, *The Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Religion*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Week 1 6 Sep	Introduction	No required reading		
Week 2 13 Sep	Ontological argument	‘The ontological argument’ by Alvin Plantinga in his <i>God, Freedom, and Evil</i> , 1974, Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids. Recommend: pp. 85-98 & 104-112.		
Week 3 20 Sep	Cosmological argument	‘A new cosmological argument’ by Richard Gale and Alexander Pruss <i>Religious Studies</i> , Volume 35, 1999, pp. 461 - 476		
Week 4 27 Sep	Teleological argument	‘The teleological argument’ by Robin Collins in <i>The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Religion</i> , 2 nd edition		
No Class 4 Oct	Chung Yeung Festival			
Week 5	Problem of evil	‘The problem of evil’ by Derk Pereboom		

11 Oct		in <i>The Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Religion</i> Recommend: pp. 148-152&159-169		
Week 6 18 Oct	Divine hiddenness	'Hiddenness of God' by Daniel Howard-Snyder and Adam Green in <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>		
Week 7 25 Oct	Guest Lecture by Dr. Lok-Chi Chan (National Taiwan University)	Talk title: Divine Creation and Human Errors		Deadline for Essay#1: 30th Oct (Sunday) 23:59
Week 8 1 Nov	Epistemology of God's nature: Perfect being theology	'The method of perfect being theology' by Jeff Speaks <i>Faith and Philosophy</i> , Volume 31, 2014, pp. 256-266.		
Week 9 8 Nov	Omniscience	'Divine Omniscience and Voluntary Action' by Nelson Pike <i>Philosophical Review</i> , Volume 74, 1965, pp. 27-46		
Week 10 15 Nov	Omnipotence	'Omnipotence and necessary moral perfection: are they compatible?' by Wes Morriston <i>Religious Studies</i> , Volume 37, 2001, pp. 143 - 160		
Week 11 22 Nov	Perfect goodness and freedom	'How an Unsurpassable Being Can Create a Surpassable World' by Daniel Howard-Snyder and Frances Howard-Snyder <i>Faith and Philosophy</i> , Volume 11, 1994, pp. 260-268 'The Problem of No Best World' by William Rowe <i>Faith and Philosophy</i> , Volume 11, 1994, pp. 269-271		
Week 12 29 Nov	Simplicity	'Simplicity and Aseity' by Jeffrey Brower in <i>The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Theology</i> .		
Week 13 6 Dec	Conclusion	No required reading		Deadline for Essay#2: 11th Dec (Sunday) 25:59

Details of course website

To be announced

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

Teacher	
Name:	Lo Tien-Chun
Office location:	TBA
Telephone:	TBA
Email:	TBA

TA	
Name:	TBA
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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.