

**PHIL 3800**  
**Metaphysics 形上學**

**Course Outline (Preliminary)**

**Time : H 2:30pm-4:15pm**

**Location : TBA**

**T 1:30pm-2:15am**

**TBA**

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

This course discusses some central problems in metaphysics and reflects on the nature of metaphysics. Topics include: the foundation of metaphysical questioning in Parmenides, Being and appearance in Plato, Being and becoming in Aristotle, Descartes and the metaphysics of subjectivity, Hume's challenge to metaphysical inquiry, Kant and the recommencement of metaphysics, metaphysics and the quest for absolute knowledge in Hegel, personal identity, the mind-body problem, free will, and causation.

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

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

1. Understand the connection between metaphysical issues and other philosophical issues.
2. Grasp major themes in metaphysics.
3. Understand the relevance of metaphysical issues to/for the contemporary human setting.
4. Enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

**Topics**

1. Introduction
2. Possibility and Necessity
3. Existence: Is existence a property?
4. Necessary Existence: Why is there something rather than nothing?
5. Fatalism
6. Determinism and Free Will
7. Causation

Realism and Anti-realism

**Learning activities**

Lectures and tutorials

**Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)**

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Essays	1 Term essay	35%
test or exam	1 mid-term and 1 term-end test	35%
Tutorial performance	6 tutorials sessions	30%

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

**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**

- Topic-specific lists of references, required and suggested readings will be given in lecture notes and bibliographical notes (separate) for each topic.
- Most books in the bibliography are reserved in UC library. E-copies of (or links to) some of the readings will be uploaded to Blackboard where it is legally permissible.

### **Details of course website**

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

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Wong Kai-yee
Office location:	Room 428, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 7145
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<b>TA</b>	
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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.