This is an unofficial preliminary course outline. The official outline will be distributed via blackboard to students enrolled in the class.

Course Outline (General Education)

Course Code/Section: UGED2261	Year: 2022-23 Term 1	
Course Title: Philosophy and Human Life		
Time/Venue: F 9:30-11:15, ERB703	Course website: Blackboard	
Course Teacher: KEE, Hayden	Email: hkee@cuhk.edu.hk	Phone: 39437148
Office Location: Room 430, FKH Building	Office Hours: TBA	

Course overview:

This course investigates problems in different realms of human life from a philosophical point of view. It also demonstrates how philosophical thinking can make a distinctive contribution to our understanding of ourselves, others, and the world. Topics to be discussed include: human nature, happiness, freedom, culture, sex and gender, technology, animals, the earth, mortality, and the meaning of life.

Learning outcomes:

1. Discuss ethical issues concerning human life.
2. Critically analyze different ideas of happiness in modern society.
3. Reflect on the meaning of life in philosophical way.
4. Evaluate and reflect on one's identity.

Learning Activities:

Course expectations:

- Actively read and reflect on the required course readings

- Attend all lectures and tutorials and actively participate

- Demonstrate that course learning outcomes have been achieved by discussion contributions and written assignments

Activities and workload:

In-class (mandatory):

- Lecture/In-Class Discussion: 2 hours each week.

Out-of-class (average workload per week):

- Reading: 2–3 hours on the basic and suggested readings each week.

- Exams and Assignments: Approx. 1 hour each week for preparation.

- Final Exam: Approx. 1 hour each week for preparation. You should make sure that you reserve more time towards the end of the semester.

Weekly Course Schedule and reading assignment:

Week/Date	Topic	Required readings/other requirements
1 /	Introduction	
2 /	The Rational Animal	Selections from Aristotle, *Physics* and *De*

		Anima
3 /	The Good Life	Selections from Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
4 /	Freedom	Sartre, "Existentialism Is a Humanism"
5 /	Culture	Rachels, "Cultural Relativism"
6 /	Sex and Gender	Warnke, "Sex and Gender"
7 /	Technology	Selections from Nozick and Bostrom
8 /	Animals	Singer, "Equality for Animals?"; Steinbock, "Speciesism and the Idea of Equality"
9 /	The Earth	Selections from James, *Environmental Philosophy*
10 /	Death	Selections from Epicurus, Lucretius, and Nagel
11 /	More Death	In-class film viewing (no reading)
12 /	The Meaning(s) of Life	Taylor, "The Meaning of Life"; Wolf, "Meaning in Life"; Vitrano, "Meaningful Lives"
13 /	The Questioning Animal	Plato, "Apology"
TBA	Final Exam Period	

Required readings and other recommended readings/ learning resources:

All required readings and supplementary resources will be made available on Blackboard.

The following recommended readings have been placed on course reserves at the University Library:

Benatar, David. *Life, Death & Meaning: Key Philosophical Readings on the Big Questions*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2004.

Biffle, Christopher, and Plato. *A Guided Tour of Five Works by Plato: With Complete Translations of Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Phaedo (death Scene), and "Allegory of the Cave"*. 3rd ed. Mountain View: Mayfield Publishing, 2001.

Cahn, Steven M. *Exploring Ethics: An Introductory Anthology*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Harris, Sam. *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values*. New York: Free Press, 2010.

James, Simon P. *Environmental Philosophy: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2015.

Kaufmann, Walter Arnold. *Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre*. New York: Meridian Books, 1956.

Warnke, Georgia. *Debating Sex and Gender*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Assessment scheme:

Assessment component	Description	Weight (%)
Reading Response	Short discussion of a reading	5%
Participation	Participation, discussion, in-class tasks	15%
Midterm Take-Home Exams (1)	Short-answer format	35%
Final Exam (1)	Format TBA	45%

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 are required to submit a signed declaration (attachment 1) 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.

Course policies

Further course policies and guidelines concerning tardiness and absenteeism, late assignments, grading, and more can be found on the course blackboard page.

Feedback for evaluation
a. Course and teaching evaluation survey will be conducted in the second last week of the course. Students are reminded of their responsibility and right to give feedback to facilitate enhancement of the course.
b. Students are welcome to give feedbacks to the course teacher at any time in person or through emails.

Grade Descriptors:
http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

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Declaration for written assignment

I am/we are submitting the assignment for:

□ an individual project or
□ a group project on behalf of all members of the group. It is hereby confirmed that the submission is authorized by all members of the group, and all members of the group are required to sign this declaration.

I/We declare that the assignment here submitted is original except for source material explicitly acknowledged, the piece of work, or a part of the piece of work has not been submitted for more than one purpose (i.e. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration, and that the submitted soft copy with details listed in the <Submission Details> is identical to the hard

copy(ies), if any, which has(have) been / is(are) going to be submitted. I/We also acknowledge that I am/we are aware of University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and of the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations, as contained in the University website http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. In the case of a group project, we are aware that each student is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.

It is also understood that assignments without a properly signed declaration by the student concerned and in the case of a group project, by all members of the group concerned, will not be graded by the teacher(s).

_____   _____
Signature(s)   Date

_____   _____
Name(s)   Student ID(s)

_____   _____
Course code   Course title