

UGED2852
Freedom & Destiny 自由與命運
Course Outline (tentative)

Lecture Time: Tuesday 9:30-11:15

Lecture Venue: SWH 2

Course overview

Humans always hope for freedom. But we are finite beings. Most of what happens to us is beyond our control and decision. Is our will free? Is life determined? In what sense can we make a free choice? What can and what should we do in the face of destiny? This course will deal with these significant problems and the tension between freedom and destiny, in order to stimulate students' reflection on their own lives.

人生總要面對各種不期而至的遭遇，但人又總是對自由有所希冀。「自由」與「命運」之間，顯然存在着張力。人生是否被命定的？人是否擁有自由意志？面對命運，我們能做和應做甚麼？這些問題與我們如何理解和籌劃人生息息相關。本課即旨在探討「自由」與「命運」的相關課題，讓學員在自我理解和成長上有所深思。

Philosophy Majors cannot take this course to fulfil General Education requirements.

Prerequisite (for S6 entrants admitted in 2010-11 and thereafter)—For MB ChB: UGFH1000; for other programmes: UGFH1000 or UGFN1000.

Learning outcomes

1. Recognize and describe different views, traditional and contemporary, Chinese and Western, on freedom and destiny.
2. Analyze and elaborate the rationale behind those different views.
3. Compare and value those different views.
4. Reflect independently and critically on personal life views.

Topics

1. Freedom and autonomy
2. Various understandings of autonomy
3. Contemporary psychological approaches to autonomy
4. Weakness of will
5. Freedom and responsibility
6. Metaphysical challenges to freedom of will: determinism and free will
7. Metaphysical challenges to freedom of will: the issue of mental causation
8. Psychological challenges to freedom of will: empirical approaches
9. Freedom and justice
10. Negative liberty vs positive liberty
11. Non-interference, non-domination, and non-oppression
12. Social union, justice, and freedom

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Class Participation	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	50%

Required resources

Kane, Robert (2005) *A Contemporary Introduction to Free Will*, Oxford University Press.

Other selected readings

Recommended resources

Pink, Thomas (2004) *Free Will: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu>)

Details of course website

Reading materials, assignments, and lecture notes will be put in a Dropbox folder (the link to this folder is posted on Blackboard).

Contact details for teacher(s)

Teacher	
Name:	Tang Yingying
Office location:	Room 417, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 1856
Email:	tang_yingying@hotmail.com

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.

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