

**PHIL3233**  
**Social and Political Philosophy 社會政治哲學**

**Course Outline**

**Time: T 10:30am-1:15pm**

**Location: LSK 206**

**Course overview**

This course addresses some of the fundamental questions in the area of social and political philosophy: Why do we need the state? Who should rule? What should citizens have? How should property be distributed? Through addressing these questions this course provides students with a broad introduction to the main concepts and philosophers associated with Western social and political philosophy.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Have a basic understanding of what social and political philosophy is about.
2. Have a basic understanding of the basic political concepts studied in the course, such as authority, democracy, freedom, and justice.
3. Be able to analyze the main philosophical arguments encountered in lectures and in the required reading.
4. Be able to draw upon a philosophical perspective and develop clear and independent arguments when engaging in social and political debates.

**Topics (A full list of topics will be provided in the first week of teaching.)**

Tentative topics:

- Introduction
- Morality and politics
- Political authority
- Democracy
- Equality
- Freedom of speech
- Social and economic justice
- World poverty
- Money and work

**Learning activities**

Lecture

Tutorial

Final essay

Take-home exam

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

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Tutorial	About 7 sessions	30%
Final essay		30%
Take-home exam		40%

**Backup plan for assessment in case face-to-face teaching and assessment is not possible due to the pandemic (no need to fill in if the class and related assessments are to be conducted online)**

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Tutorial	Use Zoom if necessary. About 7 sessions.	30%
Final essay		30%
Take-home exam		40%

**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**

**(A longer list of references will be given in due course.)**

Miller, David (2003) *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sen, Amartya (1999). *Development as Freedom*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Wolff, Jonathan (2015) *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 'Introduction'.

**Course schedule (A schedule will be provided in the first week of teaching.)**

**Details of course website (Available at Portal when the term begins.)**

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

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	MANG, Fan Lun Franz
Office location:	Room 424, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 7153
Email:	flmang@cuhk.edu.hk

<b>TA</b>	
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

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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.