PHIL1110
Introduction to Philosophy 哲學概論

Course Outline

Time：T 2:30pm-4:15pm	**Location：WMY 408**
Tutorial Time: TBD	

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course is a general introduction to philosophical thinking and problems. Students will gain a basic familiarity with some of the major philosophical fields, figures and issues; be encouraged to develop their own views and to defend them with critical reasoning. Topics to be discussed include: knowledge and skepticism; mind and body; free will and determinism; personal identity; God; morality.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Grasp basic concepts in philosophical thinking.

2. Ability to reflect in a critical manner on philosophical issues and their relations.

3. Understand the importance of philosophical reflection and bring it to bear on things that matter in life.

4. Ability to summarize and evaluate philosophical essays

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.   Written Assignment: Two exercises for summarizing articles and two exercises for evaluating arguments; The length of each of them should be around 300-500 words in English or 500-750 words in Chinese.

e.   Term Paper: One final term paper of 3000 words in English or 5000 words in Chinese.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

Task nature	*Description*	*Weight*
Class participation and discussion		5%
Tutorial		15%
Assignment#1	Summarizing Article#1	10%
Assignment#2	Summarizing Article#2	10%
Assignment#3	Evaluating Article#3	10%
Assignment#4	Evaluating Article#4	10%
Term paper		40%

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

Blackburn, Simon, 1999, *Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Henceforth: '*Think*'.)

Conee, Earl and Theodore Sider, 2014, *Riddles of Existence: A Guided Tour of Metaphysics*, New Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Henceforth: '*RoE*'.)

Shafer-Landau, Russ, 2021, *The Fundamentals of Ethics*, Fourth Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Henceforth: '*FoE*'.)

Course schedule

Week	*Topics*	*Required reading*	*Tutorials*	*Remarks*
Week 1 5 Sep	Introduction	No required reading		
Week 2 12 Sep	Knowledge and Skepticism: Self	*Think*, pp. 15-32		
Week 3 19 Sep	Knowledge and Skepticism: External World	*Think*, pp. 32-48		
Week 4 26 Sep	Mind-Body Problem	*Think*, pp. 49-65	Tutorial #0 (Briefing session)	
Week 5 3 Oct	Reading, Summary, and Evaluation Skills	Bertrand Russell's "Analogy"		
Week 6 10 Oct	Personal Identity	*RoE*, Ch.1	Tutorial #1	Deadline for Assignment#1: 10th Oct 14:30
Week 7 17 Oct	Review of Assignment#1 & Discussion	No required reading		
Week 8 24 Oct	Free Will and Determinism	*RoE*, Ch.6	Tutorial #2	Deadline for Assignment#2: 24th Oct 14:30
Week 9 31 Oct	How to Write a Philosophical Essay	No required reading		
Week 10 7 Nov	God	*RoE*, Ch.4	Tutorial #3	Deadline for Assignment#3: 7th Nov14:30
Week 11 14 Nov	Review of Assignment#3 & Discussion	No required reading		
Week 12 21 Nov	Hedonism	*FoE*, Ch. 1-2	Tutorial #4	Deadline for Assignment#4: 21st Nov14:30
Week 13 28 Nov	Objective Morality	*FoE*, Ch. 21	Tutorial #5	
Week 14 5 Dec	No Class			Deadline for Final Term Paper: 5th Dec 23:59

Contact details for teacher

Teacher	
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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.