

PHIL 2060B:
Philosophy and Human Conditions 哲學與人生處境

Course Outline

Time : W 10:30-1:15pm

Location: UCC 204

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course is a small-class ‘problem-oriented’ seminar. It is designed for **second-year major students** to develop an ability to analyze and reflect on contemporary human conditions from a philosophical perspective. Main topics may include: life and death; the meaning of life; faiths and religions; human’s place in nature; self, freedom, and rights; technological revolution and human alienation; love and friendship.

Advisory: For Majors (4-year curriculum) only; **to be taken in year 1.**

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

- 1) Understand contemporary human conditions from a philosophical point of view.
- 2) Develop own critical views on the meanings and values of life.
- 3) Research further the issues taught.
- 4) Learn how to reason and argue cogently in group discussions and debates.

Topics (may include): the idea of the good life; happiness; life and death; the value of autonomy; and love and friendship.

Assessment and learning activities (tentative):

1. In-class discussion	See below*.	30% (i.e., 30 marks)
2. In-class presentation	Choose one topic for presentation. Presenters should also respond to questions and comments from other classmates and from the teacher. Further instructions will be given in due course.	30%
3. Term-end essay	3000 words in English or 6000 words in Chinese. Details will be given in due course.	40%

***In-class discussion (30%)**

- a) **In-class written response (only 4 sentences each time) for discussion: 20%**
- **From Week 2 to the last week:**

- This is a good way of honing your writing skills. It also helps you share your ideas with the lecturer and your classmates.
 - Each student **in class** will be asked to write a very short response—within the space of 4 sentences, in Chinese or English—to a question.
 - **Grading:** Your response slips will be read by the lecturer carefully, but will not be returned. Each of your response will receive either B or A.
 - **Note:** Do not help any other student to write her or his response.
- b) **Interaction with fellow classmates and the lecturer: 10%**
- c) **About arriving late (關於遲到):** If you arrive late for **10 minutes**, please join us next time. Classroom isn't café or KTV room with people coming in at any time. :-) However, if you have to be late or absent for a justifiable reason, please email me **in advance** (flmang@cuhk.edu.hk).

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

Thomas Hurka. *The Best Things in Life*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Daniel Haybron. *Happiness: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Remark: Course schedule and a more detailed course outline will be distributed in the first meeting.

Details of course website: Blackboard.

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

Teacher	
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TA	
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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.