

PHIL 3800
Metaphysics 形上學

Course Outline

Time : H 10:30am-1:15pm

Location: UCC C4

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course discusses some central problems in metaphysics and reflects on the nature of metaphysics. Topics include: the foundation of metaphysical questioning in Parmenides, Being and appearance in Plato, Being and becoming in Aristotle, Descartes and the metaphysics of subjectivity, Hume's challenge to metaphysical inquiry, Kant and the recommencement of metaphysics, metaphysics and the quest for absolute knowledge in Hegel, personal identity, the mind-body problem, free will, and causation.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Understand the connection between metaphysical issues and other philosophical issues.
2. Grasp major themes in metaphysics.
3. Understand the relevance of metaphysical issues to/for the contemporary human setting.
4. Enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics

Introduction

Being (1): Parmenides

Being (2): Plato's Forms

Being (3): Aristotle's Categories

Being (4): Aristotle's *ousia*

Being (5): Universals

Mind & Body (1): Ancient

Mind & Body (2): Descartes

Mind & Body (3): Contemporary

Critique (1): Kant

Critique (2): Kant

Being again (1): Heidegger

Being again (2): Heidegger

Learning activities

1. Attend lectures (approximately 2 hours)
2. Attend and participate in tutorials, held every week with the lectures (approximately 45 minutes)
3. Read the required and supplementary texts before each lecture.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Presentation		20%
Class Participation		20%
Final Exam		60%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Attendance is mandatory and *absence will damage your grades*.

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

Primary Texts:

- Ariew, R. & E. Watkins (eds). 2019. *Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources*. 3 Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett. (=A)
- Brentano, F. 1995. *Psychology from an empirical standpoint*, trans. By A. C. Rancurello, D. B. Terrell, and L. L. McAlister. 2. Edition. London: Routledge. (=B)
- Cohen, S. M, P. Curd, & C. D. C. Reeve (eds). 2016. *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy from Thales to Aristotle*. 5. Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett. (=C)
- Heidegger, M. 1962. *Being and Time*, trans. J. Macquarrie & E. Robinson. Oxford: Blackwell. (=H)
- Spade, P. V. (ed.). 1994. *Five Texts on the Mediaeval Problem of Universals: Porphyry, Boethius, Abelard, Duns Scotus, Ockham*. Indianapolis: Hackett. (=S)

Supplementary Readings:

- Grondin J. 2012. *Introduction to Metaphysics: From Parmenides to Levinas*. New York: Columbia University Press. (=G)
- Kenny A. 2004. *A New History of Western Philosophy, Vol.1: Ancient Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (=K)
- Marmodoro, A. & E. Mayr. 2019. *Metaphysics: An Introduction to Contemporary Debates and Their History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kriegel, U. (ed). 2017. *The Routledge Handbook of Franz Brentano and the Brentano School*. London: Routledge. (=U)
- Le Poidevin, R, P. Simons, A, McGonigal, & R. P. Cameron (eds). 2009. *The Routledge Companion to Metaphysics*. London: Routledge. (=R)

Course schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Required readings	Supplementary readings
1	11/1	Introduction		
2	18/1	Being (1): Parmenides	C, Parmenides	R, Ch.1
3	25/1	Being (2): Plato's Forms	C, <i>Republic</i> (Except)	R, Ch.2
4	1/2	Being (3): Aristotle's Categories	C, <i>Categories</i> (Except)	R, Ch.3
5	8/2	Being (4): Aristotle's Substance	C, <i>Metaphysics</i> (Except)	G, Ch.3
6	15/2	Being (5): Universals	S (Except)	R, Ch.5
7	22/2	Mind & Body (1): Ancient	C, <i>De anima</i> (Except)	K, Ch.7
8	29/2	Mind & Body (2): Descartes	A, <i>Meditations</i> (Except)	R, Ch.7
9	7/3	Reading Week		
10	14/3	Mind & Body (3): Contemporary	B, Book 2, I	U, Ch.4
11	21/3	Critique (1): Kant	A, <i>Prolegomena</i> (Except)	R, Ch.14
12	28/3	Critique (2): Kant	A, <i>Prolegomena</i> (Except)	G, Ch.8
13	4/4	Ching Ming Festival		
14	11/4	Being again (1): Heidegger	H (Except)	R, Ch.19
15	18/4	Being again (2): Heidegger	H (Except)	G, Ch.10

Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard

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

Teacher	
Name:	Leung Ka-wing
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Telephone:	3943 4730
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TA	
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

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.