

## Course Outline (General Education)

Course Code: UGED2261	Year: 2023-24 Term 2
Course Title: Philosophy and Human Life	
Time: Tue 10:30-12:15	Venue: LDS 214
Course Teacher: Ka-wing Leung	Email: kleung@cuhk.edu.hk
Office Location: 432, Fung King Hey Building	Phone: 39434730

**Course overview:**  
 This course investigates problems in different realms of human life from a philosophical point of view. It also demonstrates how philosophical thinking can make a distinctive contribution to our understanding of ourselves, others, and the world. Topics to be discussed include: different systems of value, human happiness, religion and ultimate concern, and ethical issues in modern life.

**Learning outcomes:**

1. Discuss ethical issues concerning human life.
2. Critically analyze different ideas of happiness.
3. Reflect on the meaning of life in philosophical way.
4. Evaluate and reflect on one's identity.

**Learning Activities:**  
 Lectures: Students are expected to attend all lectures and repeated absences will result in grade drop.  
 Discussions: Students are expected to participate in class discussions.  
 Readings: 2–3 hours each week on the required and suggested readings.

**Weekly Course Schedule and reading assignment:**

Week	Topic	Readings
1. /	Philosophy and the art of living	Irvine, Ch.1.
2. /	Suffering	Warburton (2011), Ch.23.
3. /	Happiness	Warburton (2014), Ch.2.
4. /	Justice	Warburton (2014), Ch.1.
5. /	Animal	Adamson, Ch.33
6. /	Passion	Irvine, Ch.,13
7. /	Death	Austin, Ch.21
8. /	Ignorance	Pigliucci, Ch.1
9. /	Self	Warburton (2011), Ch.11.
10. /	Other	Warburton (2011), Ch.20.
11. /	Nihilism	Warburton (2011), Ch.29.
12. /	Angst	Gosetti-Ferencei, Ch.6.
13. /	Freedom	Warburton (2011), Ch.33

**Readings and other recommended readings:**

Adamson, P. 2015. *Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds: A History of Philosophy without any Gaps*, Volume 2. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Austin, E. 2023. *Living for Pleasure: An Epicurean Guide to Life*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Baggini, J. 2005. *What's It All About: Philosophy and the Meaning of Life*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gosetti-Ferencei, J. A. 2020. *On Being and Becoming: An Existentialist Approach to Life*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hadot, P. 2002. *What Is Ancient Philosophy*, trans. M. Chase. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press.

Irvine, W. B. 2009. *A Guide to the Good Life: The Ancient Art of Stoic Joy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kaufmann, W. (ed.). 1956. *Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre*. New York: Meridian Books.

Pigliucci, M., S. Cleary & D. Kaufman 2020. *How to Live a Good Life: A Guide to Choosing Your Personal Philosophy*. New York: Vintage.

Seneca 2019. *How to Keep Your Cool. An Ancient Guide to Anger Management*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Warburton, N. 2011. *A Little History of Philosophy*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Warburton, N. 2014. *Philosophy: The Classics*. (4. Edition). London: Routledge.

**Assessment scheme:**

Assessment component	Description	Weight (%)
Class participation	In-class discussions	20%
Mid-term exam.	Questions on course topics	40%
Final essay	Essay on chosen course topics	40%

**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 are required to submit a [signed declaration](#) (attachment 1) 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.

**Feedback for evaluation**

- a. Course and teaching evaluation survey will be conducted in the second last week of the course. Students are reminded of their responsibility and right to give feedback to facilitate enhancement of the course.
- b. Students are welcome to give feedbacks to the course teacher at any time in person or through emails.

**Grade Descriptors:**

[http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)) in you course outline