Course Outline (General Education)[1]

Course Code/Section: UGED2921	Year: 2023-24 Term 2
Course Title: **Philosophy, Film and Life** 哲學、電影與人生	

Time/Venue:	Course website:	
Course Teacher: Dr. Wong Kim Fan	Email: kimfanwong@cuhk.edu.hk	Phone:
Office Location:	Office Hours:	
Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	Email:	Phone:
Office Location:	Office Hours:	

Course overview: *(as per the course description approved by Senate Committee on GE[2])*

This course introduces the main perspectives concerning philosophy of life through film. Film, in this course, is understood not only as a source of illustration or example for philosophical reflection on human existence, but also as an object of philosophical reflection. What can film tell us about life? How can philosophy help us become active and critical viewers of film instead of mere customers. For each film, we will concentrate on one philosophical question, discuss the theoretical background of the issue and evaluate how the issue is handled in the film. Special focus will also be placed on the language of film, from aspects of framing to mise-en-scène, sound and editing. Students will learn to relate philosophical ideas to real life and to the hypothetical situations portrayed in films.

本課程結合哲學反省與電影賞析，探索人生哲學的議題。電影可以怎樣幫助我們思考人生問題？哲學怎樣幫助我們探索電影中的哲學意涵？課程中「電影」不單是哲學反省的工具，同時也是哲學反省的對象。本課堂透過電影觀賞，運用哲學思辨，反思人生可能面對的種種問題，並會重點介紹電影藝術的語言，包括敘事形式、攝影、場面調度、聲音、剪接等技巧。

Learning outcomes: *(based on the learning outcomes approved by Senate Committee on GE)*

1. Describe and analyze basic concepts and theories of film language;
2. Apply philosophical theories to understand and appreciate films;
3. Reflect philosophically upon different experiences in daily life;
4. Cultivate intellectual interests in thinking about the relationship between philosophy and film.

Learning Activities: *(as per the learning activities approved by Senate Committee on GE)*

In this course, you are expected to

- read and think about the assigned readings;

- develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing (short reports and term paper);

- attend *all* lectures and participate in discussion.

Activities and workload:

In-class (mandatory):

1. Lecture: 3 hours each week.

Weekly Course Schedule and reading assignment:

Week/Date	Topic	Required readings[3]/other requirements
1.	Introduction	
2.	Philosophy of Film Vs Philosophy through Film	Thomas Nagel, What Does it All Mean? pp.8-26.
3.	Film Language I	
4.	Film Language II	
5.	Skepticism: *Inception* (《潛行凶間》) ; *The Truman Show* (《真人 show》)	Geoffrey Scarre, the greatest happiness of the greatest number, pp.154-171.
6.	Utilitarianism Vs Deontology: *The Dark Knight* (《黑夜之神》	
7.	Anti-utilitarianism: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (《無痛失戀》)	Robert Nozick, the Experience Machine, pp. 644-646.
8.	Identity: *The Clockwork Orange* (《發條橙》)	
9.	Religion and Belief: *Life of Pi* (《少年 Pi 的奇幻漂流》)	休謨著，自然宗教對話錄，頁 1-13R
10.	Death and Immortality: 《生きる》（《留芳頌》）	Shelly Kagan, Immortality, pp. 235-263.
11.	Philosophy of Love: 《十二夜》; (500) Days of Summer (《心跳 500 天》; *Up in the Air* (《寡佬飛行日記》)	Alain de Botton, Romantic Fatalism, pp.1-16.
12.	The Meaning of Love: *Groundhog Day* (《今日暫時停止》)	
13.	The Way of Philosophy: 《一代宗師》; *Searching for Sugarman* (《尋找隱世巨星》)	

Required readings and other recommended readings/ learning resources:

Required readings:

1. Cox, Damien and Michael P. Levine. 2012. *Thinking Through Film: Doing Philosophy, Watching Movies*. Malden, Wiley-Blackwell.
2. Falzon, Christopher. 2007. *Philosophy Goes to the Movies: an Introduction to Philosophy*. London/New York, Routledge.
3. Wartenberg, Thomas. 2007. *Thinking on Screen: Film as Philosophy*. New York/London, Routledge.
4. 湯瑪斯・內格爾著，黃惟郁譯《哲學入門九堂課》(台北：究竟出版社，2002 年)
5. 理察・大衛・普列希特著著，錢俊宇譯，《我是誰？——如果有我，有幾個我？》(台北：

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[3] Please specify chapters/pages to be read.

啟示出版，2010 年)

Recommended readings:

1. Abrams, Jerold J. 2007. *The Philosophy of Stanley Kubrick*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky.
2. Baudry, Jean-Louis. 1976. 'The Apparatus', *Camera Obscura*. Fall 1976 1(11), 104-12.
3. Cavell, Stanley. 1979. *The World Viewed: Reflections on the Ontology of Film*, enlarged edition. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
4. Grau, Christopher. 2006. 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind and the Morality of Memory', *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism 64* (1):119–133.
5. Jarvie, Ian. 1987. *Philosophy of the Film: Epistemology, Ontology, Aesthetics*. New York/London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
6. Kupfer, Joseph H. 1999. *Visions of Virtue in Popular Film*. Boulder: Westview Press.
7. Litch, Mary. 2002. *Philosophy through Film*. New York: Routledge.
8. Livingston, Paisley and Carl Plantinga (eds) 2009. 'Preface' to *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Film*. London/New York, Routledge.
9. Mulhall, Stephen. 2002. *On Film*. London: Routledge.
10. Murdoch, Iris. 1977. *The Fire and the Sun: Why Plato Banished the Artists*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
11. Read, Rupert and Jerry Goodenough (eds) 2005. *Film as Philosophy: Essays on Cinema after Wittgenstein and Cavell*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
12. Rowland, Mark. 2004. *The Philosopher at the End of the Universe*. New York: Thomas Dunne Books.
13. Russell, Bruce. 2000. 'The Philosophical Limits of Film', *Film and Philosophy. Special Issue on Woody Allen*, 163-67.
14. Sinnerbrink, Robert. 2005. 'Cinematic Ideas: David Lynch's Mulholland Drive', *Film-Philosophy 9* (34).
15. Sinnerbrink, Robert. 2011. *New Philosophies of Film: Thinking Images*. London and New York: Continuum.
16. Smith, Murray 'Film Art, Argument and Ambiguity'. 2006, in Murray Smith and Thomas E. Wartenberg (eds). 2006. *Thinking Through Cinema: Film as Philosophy*. Oxford: Blackwell.
17. Stam, Robert. 2000. *Film Theory: An Introduction*. Malden: Blackwell.

Assessment scheme:

Assessment component	Description	Weight (%)
1.Short report	1,200 – 1,400 words	30%
2.Term Paper	3,500 – 4,000 words	40%
3.Tutorial	Group discussion	30%

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) in you course outline

Declaration for written assignment

I am/we are submitting the assignment for:

□ an individual project or
□ a group project on behalf of all members of the group. It is hereby confirmed that the submission is authorized by all members of the group, and all members of the group are required to sign this declaration.

I/We declare that the assignment here submitted is original except for source material explicitly acknowledged, the piece of work, or a part of the piece of work has not been submitted for more than one purpose (i.e. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration, and that the submitted soft copy with details listed in the <Submission Details> is identical to the hard copy(ies), if any, which has(have) been / is(are) going to be submitted. I/We also acknowledge that I am/we are aware of University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and of the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations, as contained in the University website http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. In the case of a group project, we are aware that each student is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.

It is also understood that assignments without a properly signed declaration by the student concerned and in the case of a group project, by all members of the group concerned, will not be graded by the teacher(s).

_____   _____
Signature(s)   Date

_____   _____
Name(s)   Student ID(s)

_____   _____
Course code   Course title