

PHIL3152
Topics in Ancient Western Philosophy 古代西方哲學專題
[On Love and Friendship]

Course Outline

Time : H 3:30pm-6:15pm

Location: ERB 804

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

The course aims at an in-depth study of selected works of ancient Western philosophers such as Presocratics, Plato, Aristotle, and Hellenistic philosophers. Offerings with different subtitles can be taken up for credit, up to a maximum of two times.

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

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Acquire knowledge of the selected topics of the course.
2. Have a solid grasp of the philosophical issues of the selected topics of the course.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary/secondary source texts.
4. Be able to articulate and defend a philosophical thesis of their own.

Topics

The course focuses on the centrality of love and friendship in ancient thought, particularly by reference to Plato's *Symposium* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. The former approaches the theme of *eros* in its broadest significance, above all in its existential as well as philosophical implications. The latter offers an unprecedented and unparalleled meditation on the communal conditions of singularity and on the experience of friendship understood as both a bond between individuals and a possible (as yet unexplored) mode of political coexistence. In both cases, what is at stake is an intensification of life, a heightened potentiality for being and acting.

Learning activities

Lectures, discussion, in-class interactive activities.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Essays	Final paper	50%
Presentation	Individual presentation of scheduled readings	30%
Short answer test or exam	Short essay on presentation	20%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

Required texts:

Plato, *Symposium*, trans. A. Bloom

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. H. G. Apostle

Claudia Baracchi, *Friendship: The Future of an Ancient Gift*, trans. E. Bartolini and C. Fullarton

Recommended Texts:

G. W. F. Hegel, *Lectures on the History of Philosophy: The Lectures of 1825-1826*, ed. R. F. Brown

P. Hadot, *What is Ancient Philosophy?*, trans. M. Chase

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Teaching Mode</i> <i>Online / in-campus</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Introduction to the course				
2	The question of love		Plato, <i>Symposium</i>	1 hour every session	
3	The many meanings of <i>eros</i>		Plato, <i>Symposium</i>		
4	<i>Eros</i> as a natural/cosmological principle		Plato, <i>Symposium</i>		
5	Desire, incompleteness, mortality		Plato, <i>Symposium</i>		
6	Desire and ascent		Plato, <i>Symposium</i>		
7	Beauty, fecundity, creativity		Plato, <i>Symposium</i>		
8	Love, life, togetherness		Plato, <i>Symposium</i> ; Baracchi, <i>Friendship</i>		
9	Friendship and human potentiality		Baracchi, <i>Friendship</i> ; Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>		
10	Friendship's many guises		Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>		
11	Friendship, horizontal and vertical		Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>		
12	Friendship and animality		Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>		
13	Community and the human as a whole		Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> ; Baracchi, <i>Friendship</i>		

Details of course website

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

Teacher	
Name:	Baracchi, Claudia
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	Claudia.baracchi@unimib.it

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.