

PHIL3803
Topics in Metaphysics: Theories of Properties
形上學專題: 性質理論

Course Outline

Time : F 9:30am-11:15am

Location: LSK 212

Tut : TBA

Location: TBA

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

The course examines selected topics in metaphysics. The specific content of the course varies from semester to semester. 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. Understand the key concepts, major issues, and prominent positions in the selected topics of the course.
2. Critically discuss and evaluate the major issues and positions in the topics.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary/secondary source texts.
4. Demonstrate skills in argumentative discussion and in writing about issues in metaphysics.
5. Demonstrate ability to articulate and defend one's own philosophical theses with clarity.

Topics

See Course Schedule below.

Learning activities

- a. Lecture: 2 hours a week
- b. Tutorial: 2 hours every two weeks
- c. Reading: One or two articles for every lecture; one article for every tutorial
- d. Writing: Two term essays (2000-3000 words for each) on any issue about properties

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Class participation and discussion		10%
Tutorial		20%
Essay#1	2000-3000 words; Deadline: 27 Oct 23:59	35%
Essay#2	2000-3000 words; Deadline: 22 Dec 23:59	35%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

To ensure that the essay marking is fair to all who hand in the coursework on time, please be informed of the following regulation on midterm/final essay late submission:

If the essay is submitted after the given deadlines, there will be a 20% deduction of the grade (for the particular essay only, not for the total grade of the whole class) every single day.

For instance, if the midterm essay is submitted sometime on 28 Oct, then one will get only 80% of the marked grade; if the final essay is submitted sometime on 24 Dec, then only 60% of the marked grade. Therefore, if four days pass after the deadline and I still haven't received the essay, one will get zilch for their essay grade.

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

See the required/recommended reading list below

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Recommended reading</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Week 1 6 Sep	Overview	No required reading		
Week 2 13 Sep	The one over many argument	Sophie Allen <i>A Critical Introduction to Properties</i> , pp. 7-14	David Armstrong "Against Ostrich Nominalism"	
Week 3 20 Sep	Platonism and Aristotelianism	Sophie Allen <i>A Critical Introduction to Properties</i> , pp. 14-27	David Armstrong <i>Nominalism and Realism</i> , Ch.7 "Transcendent universals", pp. 64-76	
Week 4 27 Sep	Class Nominalism	Sophie Allen <i>A Critical Introduction to Properties</i> , pp. 67-85		
Week 5 4 Oct	Bradley's regress and truthmaking	Sophie Allen <i>A Critical Introduction to Properties</i> , pp. 28-33 David Armstrong <i>A World of States of Affairs</i> , Ch.8 "States of affairs", pp. 114-116	David Lewis "New work for a theory of universals", pp. 343-355.	
11 Oct	No Class			
Week 6 18 Oct	Trope theory	Sophie Allen <i>A Critical Introduction to Properties</i> , pp. 39-60		
Week 7 25 Oct	Sparse and abundant properties	Sophie Allen <i>A Critical Introduction to Properties</i> , pp. 85-87 and 102-111	David Lewis "New work for a theory of universals", pp. 355-377.	Submission Deadline for Essay#1: 27 Oct 23:59
Week 8 1 Nov	Intrinsic and extrinsic properties	Sophie Allen <i>A Critical Introduction to Properties</i> , pp. 113-128	Dan Marshall and Brian Weatherson "Intrinsic vs. extrinsic properties" SEP entry	
Week 9 8 Nov	Categorical and dispositional properties	Sophie Allen <i>A Critical Introduction to Properties</i> , pp. 139-161		

Week 10 15 Nov	Higher-order conception of properties: I	Nicholas Jones “Nominalist realism”, pp. 808-817	Christopher Fruge, “Against Instantiation”; Timothy Williamson, <i>Modal Logic as Metaphysics</i> , pp. 391-403	
Week 11 22 Nov	Higher-order conception of properties: II	Nicholas Jones “Nominalist realism”, pp. 817-831	Lukas Skiba “Higher-order metaphysics and the tropes versus universals dispute”	
Week 12 29 Nov	Review	No required reading		Submission Deadline for Essay#2: 22 Dec 23:59

Details of course website

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

Teacher	
Name:	Lo Tien-chun
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Telephone:	3943 7138
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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.