

PHIL3833
Topics in Ethics 倫理學專題
[The Question of Justice and the Just Life]

Course Outline

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

Location: HYS G01

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

The course examines selected topics in ethics. 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 ethics.
5. Demonstrate ability to articulate and defend one's own philosophical theses with clarity.

Topics

The course focuses on the question of justice as it is fundamentally posed in Ancient Greek experience and philosophy. It highlights the persistence of the theme of justice from archaic times, especially its pervasiveness in the tragic repertoire, and explores how the poetic insight concerning justice is reflectively taken up and articulated in later thought—especially Plato, who broaches the issue of justice in ethical terms, i.e., as a matter of living justly. Connections with contemporary thought are also considered, notably Judith Butler's assessment of Aeschylus' *Eumenides* and the interrelated but irreducible issues of justice, law, and violence.

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%
Essay test or exam	Short mid-term essay	25%
Presentation	Presentation of scheduled readings	25%

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, *Republic*, trans. A. Bloom

Aeschylus, *Eumenides*, in *The Oresteia*, trans. Robert Fagles

Judith Butler, "Fury and Justice in the Humanities," *Classical Antiquity* vol. 42.1

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

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	On the tragic experience		Aeschylus, <i>Eumenides</i>	1 hour every session	
3	The tragedy of inter-generational relations		Aeschylus, <i>Eumenides</i> ; J. Butler, "Fury and Justice"		
4	Raising the question, between poetry and philosophy		Plato, <i>Republic I</i> ; C. Baracchi, <i>Friendship</i>		
5	<i>Ethos</i> : Justice in the soul		Plato, <i>Republic II</i>		
6	Justice and psychic structure		Plato, <i>Republic III</i>		
7	Justice and friendship		Plato, <i>Republic IV</i>		
8	Knowing		Plato, <i>Republic V</i>		
9	Approaching the good		Plato, <i>Republic VI</i>		
10	The human condition		Plato, <i>Republic VII</i>		
11	Crisis and decay		Plato, <i>Republic VIII</i>		
12	The city inside		Plato, <i>Republic IX</i>		
13	Ways of life		Plato, <i>Republic X</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.