

PHIL2050
History of Western Philosophy II 西方哲學史 (二)

Course Outline

Time: T 2:30pm-5:15pm

Location :

LSK 302

Office Hours: T 11-12am

Course overview

The course introduces students to the history of modern Western philosophy. Topics include: philosophical background and movements leading to modern philosophy, the confrontation between rationalism and empiricism, and Kant's critical philosophy.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2.

Topics

Rationalism

Empiricism

Kant's Critical Idealism

Philosophy of Mind

Metaphysics

Epistemology

Learning activities

Attend lectures and participate in class discussions. Each lecture is approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Learning Outcomes:

Develop an understanding of the Rationalist and Empiricist traditions of Early Modern Philosophy

Develop a basic understanding of the Kantian philosophy and its origins, as well as its relation to Early Modern Philosophy

Develop the capacity to reconstruct and critique, and construct your own arguments.

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Argument Reconstruction	See Remarks.	10%
Attendance	See Remarks.	10%
Argument Critique	See Remarks.	25%

Seminar Paper	See Remarks.	55%
---------------	--------------	-----

Grade Descriptor

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

Argument Reconstruction:

I shall provide you with passages from the texts which we are reading, and I will ask you to choose one passage to work on. You will re-construct the argument contained in that passage. Reconstructing the argument will require you to carefully explicate the premises, (both implicit and explicit) and the conclusion of the argument. In order to succeed on this assignment, students must re-phrase the arguments *in their own words*. No quotations of the passage will be allowed. There is *no length requirement* for this assignment.

Argument Critiques:

The Argument Critiques consist of three parts. In respect to the critique, I shall provide you with passages from the texts which we are reading, and I will ask you to choose one passage to work on. You will re-construct the argument contained in that passage, and formulate a critique of that passage. The last stage consists in formulating a reply to the criticism that you raise. I encourage you to utilize the texts that we are reading in formulating the criticisms; you are encouraged to employ the philosophers against each other. Argument Critiques in 12 point font should probably range from 3 to 6 double spaced pages in length.

Seminar Paper:

The seminar paper will require students to uncover a philosopher problem in one of the texts that we have read together and clearly explicate that problem. Following the explication of the problem, students should work through various solutions to the problem and clearly formulate their own thesis concerning that problem. Students are welcome to use their Argument Critiques as a possible groundwork for their Seminar Paper. The term paper requires students to consult and cite at least one work of secondary literature in addition to the required readings. The term paper should *not* be more than 6-8 double spaced pages.

Late Work/Make-Ups:

I will accept late submissions, but for each day the paper is late, one half a letter grade will be deducted. If you would like a grade changed, you must provide me with a detailed written argument for why you think it should be changed, otherwise I will not consider it.

Attendance:

You are allowed two unexcused absences. For the third absence and every subsequent absence, $\frac{1}{2}$ a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade.

Required Readings

René Descartes, *Meditations*

<https://www.amazon.com/Discourse-Method-Meditations-First-Philosophy/dp/0872204200>

David Hume, *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

<https://www.amazon.com/Enquiry-concerning-Understanding-Oxford-Philosophical/dp/0198752482>

Immanuel Kant, *The Critique of Pure Reason*

<https://www.amazon.com/Critique-Reason-Cambridge-Works-Immanuel/dp/0521657296>

Recommended Readings

Margaret Cavendish, *Essential Writings*

Spinoza, *Ethics*

Leibniz, *Monadology*

An Essay Concerning Human Understanding

Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge

Locke,

Berkeley, *A*

Week	Teaching Mode Online / in-campus	Required reading [PDFs supplied via Blackboard]
1	TBD	Introduction to Early Modern Philosophy
2	TBD	René Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>
3	TBD	René Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>
4	TBD	René Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>
5	TBD	René Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>
6	TBD	David Hume, <i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>
7	TBD	David Hume, <i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>
8	TBD	David Hume, <i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>
9	TBD	David Hume, <i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>
10	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>
11	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>
12	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>
13	TBD	Immanuel Kant, <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i>

Details of course website

We will use Blackboard for this course. Lecture notes and information on assignments and papers will be posted on the website.

Contact details for the Teacher and the TA(s):

Teacher	
Name:	Moss, Gregory
Office location:	Room 426, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 9875
Email:	gsmoss@cuhk.edu.hk

TA	
Name:	TBD
Office location:	TBD
Office Hours	TBD
Email:	TBD

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.