

**PHIL2060A**  
**Philosophy and Human Conditions 哲學與人生處境**

**Course Outline**

(A detailed course outline will be distributed to the enrolled students at the start of the semester. Please note that this tentative course outline is subject to changes.)

**Time: W 10:30am-1:15pm**

**Location: LDS 218**

**Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)**

This course is a small-class ‘problem-oriented’ seminar. It is designed for second-year major students to develop an ability to analyze and reflect on contemporary human conditions from a philosophical perspective. Main topics may include: life and death; the meaning of life; faiths and religions; human’s place in nature; self, freedom, and rights; technological revolution and human alienation; love and friendship.

Advisory: For Majors (4-year curriculum) only; to be taken in year 1.

**Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)**

- 1) Understand contemporary human conditions from a philosophical point of view.
- 2) Develop own critical views on the meanings and values of life.
- 3) Research further the issues taught.
- 4) Learn how to reason and argue cogently in group discussions and debates.

**Topics (暫定題目)**

Is the unexamined life not worth living? 未經審視的人生是否不值得過？

Pleasure and hedonism 愉悅及享樂主義

What is happiness? 何謂快樂？

Living a flourishing life 活得豐盛

Personal autonomy 自主

What does it mean to live authentically? 何謂活得真實？

What is love? 情為何物？

Life and meaning 人生與意義

Absurdity and meaning 荒謬與意義

Right and wrong 對與錯

On virtues 談品德

On the right to end life 有關結束生命的權利

Poverty and responsibility 貧窮與責任

## **Learning activities and assessment scheme**

1. In-class Writing Exercise (Six times in total) 18%: Answer the questions asked in class, write only 3 sentences each time, please write thoughtfully, both Chinese and English are acceptable. The teacher will carefully read each answer, but to simplify the process, the responses will not be returned. Each response will receive a B+ or A.
2. Participation 22%: More details will be provided at the first meeting.
3. Class Presentation 20%: The students responsible for it should email an outline to everyone two days before the presentation.
4. Final Paper 40% English 3000-4000 words or Chinese 6000-8000 words. A list of suggested topics can be provided in due course.

\*Regarding Lateness: If you are more than 10 minutes late, please wait until the next class; after all, the classroom is neither a KTV room nor a café :-). But if you have a special reason for being late or absent, contact the teacher before class (flmang@cuhk.edu.hk).

**Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any):** NA

## **Grade Descriptor**

Please refer to: [http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)

## **Recommended learning resources**

Thomas Hurka. *The Best Things in Life*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Daniel Haybron. *Happiness: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013

**Course schedule (to be provided in due course)**

**Details of course website: Blackboard**

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

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Mang Fan-lun (Franz)
Office location:	Room 424, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 7153
Email:	flmang@cuhk.edu.hk

<b>TA</b>	
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.