

PHIL4262
Existentialism 存在主義

Course Outline

Instructor: Gregory S. Moss

Time: M 10:30am-1:15pm

Location: LHC G03

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course examines the background and characteristics of Søren Aabye Kierkegaard (1813–1855)

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

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Understand the historical and cultural conditions of the emergence of Kierkegaard's philosophy.
2. Grasp the central concepts and philosophical issues discussed by Kierkegaard.
3. Acquire a critical view of Kierkegaard's philosophy.
4. Enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics

Freedom

Paradox

God

Faith

Reason

Despair

Authenticity

Learning activities

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

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Argument Reconstruction	See Below	10%
Argument Critique	See Below	25%
Participation	See Below	15%
Seminar Paper	See Below	50%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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

4. Participation:

Attendance is mandatory and *absence will damage your grades*. Two unexcused absences are permitted. For each unexcused absence beyond two, one-half a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade. In case of emergencies, either notify me of your absence ahead of time, or plan to bring some formal documentation of your absence. Without documentation, I will not accept absences as excused.

5. Late Work/Make-Ups:

Every day the paper is late, one half a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for the assignment. 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.

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

See the Stanford Encyclopedia Entry on Kierkegaard

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kierkegaard/>

Course schedule

Week	Required reading
1	<i>Introduction</i>
2	<i>Fear and Trembling</i>
3	<i>Fear and Trembling</i>
4	<i>Fear and Trembling</i>
5	<i>The Sickness Unto Death</i>
6	<i>The Sickness Unto Death</i>
7	<i>The Sickness Unto Death</i>
8	<i>The Sickness Unto Death</i>
9	<i>The Sickness Unto Death</i>
10	<i>Works of Love</i>
11	<i>Works of Love</i>
12	<i>Concluding Unscientific Postscript</i>
13	<i>Concluding Unscientific Postscript</i>
14	Concluding Discussions

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 teacher(s) or TA(s)**

Contact details for teacher(s) or 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
Telephone:	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.