The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Philosophy

Course Code: PHIL 4282
Course Title: Hermeneutics
Chinese Title: 詮 釋 學
Course Outline 課程大綱

2025-26 Term 1			
Time：	**W 14:30 – 17:15**	**Location：**	**UCC C2**

Contact details for teacher(s)

Teacher	
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Course overview :

課程簡介： 本課程主要探討西方現代哲學詮釋學的各種哲學問題。詮釋學在西方中古傳統之發展，本為一套解釋古籍經典的方法。其首要目的在於，如何有效地把文本的意義準確傳遞給讀者。因之，早期的詮釋學已引出意義的客觀性，普遍性，作者之寫作意圖及目的，解釋的時間差距等諸多問題。不過，基於早期之詮釋學，始終未脫一種僅供梳理文義之附庸角色，故亦未形成一套獨立的學說。

現代詮釋學的發展，一方面承接並進深反省傳統詮釋學所開出的各個主要問題。另一方面，經過狄爾泰(Dilthey)，海德格(Heidegger)，伽達瑪(Gadamer)，利科(Ricoeur)等人的耕耘擴充，將解釋活動奠立為營建人類與世界之意義關係的樞紐位置，終致詮釋學的論題能自成一家之言。其研討之理論成效，更被廣泛視為重整各人文和社會學科的研究方法之指標。

本課借現代詮釋學的義理為經緯，以上述四位哲學家之詮釋理論作探討核心。論題自然圍繞：理解活動之首要位置，解釋的普遍性，詮釋經驗的特徵及它的構成條件，歷史性與詮釋處境，文本意義的掌握與解釋之互動等等。

This course examines the major problems and issues of hermeneutics and their development. Topics studied may include: the hermeneutic question of Schleiermacher and Dilthey; the contribution of Heidegger's fundamental ontology to hermeneutics; Gadamer's establishment of philosophical hermeneutics; Ricoeur's development of hermeneutics.

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

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the conditions giving rise to hermeneutics as a philosophical discipline and its development in the 20th century.
2. Grasp the basic concepts and philosophical issues discussed by various hermeneutical philosophers.
3. Acquire a critical view on the doctrines put forward by hermeneutical philosophers.
4. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics

1. 詮釋學的起源, 詮釋學的哲學問題處境, 詮釋學的主要論題

2. 狄爾泰(Dilthey)： 歷史理性的批判、心靈學科的方法、說明(explanation)與解釋(interpretation)、生命經驗(lived experience)與表達(expression) 、普全與特殊

3. 海德格(Heidegger)： 此在(Dasein)分析、詮釋與實況性(Faktizität)、理解與解釋的關係、理解的前結構(fore-structure)、詮釋循環、言說(discourse)

4. 伽達瑪(Gadamer)： "理解是如何可能 ?"、處境與先見(pre-judice)、"理解-解釋-應用"、藝術作品與遊戲(Spiel)、傳統與歷史性、效應歷史意識(historically effected consciousness)、界域融合(fusion of horizon)

5. 利科(Ricoeur)： "詮釋學的長途"、解釋的衝突、間距作用(distanciation)、書寫與文本、文本與世界

Learning activities

In this course, you are expected to

- read and think about the assigned readings;
- develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing (short essays, final essays, and presentation, comment report of tutorial readings);
- attend *all* lectures, tutorials and participate in discussion.

Activities and workload:

Lecture class (mandatory):

1. Lecture: 2 hours for every week
2. Interactive discussion.

Tutorial class : (from week 4/ 5)

- Five tutorial class – 1.5 hour per class (details be announced in briefing section)

Out-of-class (average workload per week):

1. Reading: 2–3 hours on the basic and suggested readings in different topics, and 3–4 hours on the *Required readings*.
2. Essays: an average of 2–3 hours each week on reading the texts and preparing the essay throughout the semester.

3. Reading Report: an average of 2–3 hours each week on reading the texts, and preparing the report throughout the semester.

Assessment scheme : tentative

Task nature	*Description*	*Weight*
閱讀報告	同學必須清楚理解閱讀材料*, 然後寫成一篇論述報告；報告字數不少於 2000 字 *閱讀材料： "***Required reading***", "***Topics***" 2 至 5, 各組文章中作選擇 *最後遞交日期 - 11 月 28 日	25%
學期論文	不少於 2000 字，題目不得與閱讀報告選題重複 *最後遞交日期 - 12 月 12 日	25%
課堂討論參與	課堂提問和討論 – 提問, 具啟發性反省	10%
導修課	五次 導修課; 每次 約 1.5 小時 同學須參與課堂報告 及 討論	40%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme :

*** Paper late submission: Students should submit their term end paper on / before the deadline. Late submission will be subject to mark deduction, a 5% deduction per one day. Details will be announced in Blackboard.**

- ***AI tool is not allowed in writing reading report, essay writing, and tutorial presenation.***

Grade descriptor :
http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

撰寫 報告，論文的有關指引將會在課堂中適當時間公佈

Course schedule

Week	*Topics*	*Required reading*	*Tutorials*	*Remarks*
1-2	1	Ricoeur, "Task of Hermeneutics" in ***Hermeneutics and the human sciences : essays on language, action and interpretation.*** Referring to p. 43-62		
3-4	2	Dilthey, ***The formation of the historical world in the human science.*** Referring to p. 213-221 & 226-241	待 定	

5-7	3	Heidegger, ***Being and Time.*** Referring to §31 - §34		
8-10	4	Gadamer, ***Truth and Method***. *2nd Edition.* Referring to p.277-307& 346-61 Gadamer-Habermas Debate: ***The Hermeneutics Reader.*** Referring to p.274-291 & p. 294-317.		
11-13	5	Ricoeur, 1. "The hermeneutical function of distanciation", 2. "What is a Text? Explanation and Understanding" in ***Hermeneutics and the human sciences : essays on language, action and interpretation*****.** Referring to p. 131- 164		

Recommended learning resources

原典資料 –

Wilhelm Dilthey, ***Introduction to the human sciences***. Edited, with an introduction, by Rudolf A. Makkreel and Frithjof Rodi**.** Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1989.

_____**,** ***Experience and Poetry***. Edited, with an introduction, by Rudolf A. Makkreel and Frithjof Rodi**.** Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1985.

_____**,** ***Hermeneutics and the study of history***. Edited, with an introduction, by Rudolf A. Makkreel and Frithjof Rodi**.** Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1996.

_____**,** ***The formation of the historical world in the human sciences*****.** Edited, with an introduction, by Rudolf A. Makkreel and Frithjof Rodi**.** Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 2002.

Hans-Georg Gadamer, ***Truth and Method***. Trans. & Revised by J.Weinsheimer/ D.G.Marshall. New York: Continuum Pub.Company,1994.

_____**,** ***Philosophical Hermeneutics***. Tr. & Ed. By David E. Linge. California: Univ. of California Press, 1977.

_____**,** ***Reason in the Age of Science***. Tr. by F.G.Lawrence. Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1996.

_____**,** ***The Relevance of the Beautiful and Other Essays***. Tr. by N. Walker. Ed. & Intro. by R. Bernasconi. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1986.

Martin Heidegger, ***Ontology --- The hermeneutics of Facticity***. Trans. by John van Buren. Bloomington : Indiana University Press, 1999.

_____**,** ***Being and Time***. Trans. by John Macquarrie & Edward Robinson. London : SCM Press, 1962.

Paul Ricoeur, ***The conflict of interpretations : essays in hermeneutics***. Edited by Don Ihde**.** Evanston : Northwestern University Press, 1974.

_____*, Interpretation theory : discourse and the surplus of meaning*. Fort Worth : Texas Christian University Press, c1976.

_____, ***Hermeneutics and the human sciences : essays on language, action and interpretation*.** Edited, translated and introduced by John B. Thompson**.** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

_____, ***From text to action*.** Translated by Kathleen Blamey and John B. Thompson. London : Athlone Press, 1991

The Hermeneutics Reader : texts of the German tradition from the Enlightenment to the present. Edited, with an introduction and notes, by Kurt Mueller-Vollmer. New York : Continuum, 1988.

思想背景及通論 –

Richard J. Bernstein**,** ***Beyond objectivism and relativism : science, hermeneutics, and praxis*.** Philadelphia : University of Pennsylvania Press, 1988.

Maurizio Ferraris**,** ***History of hermeneutics***. translated by Luca Somigli**.** Atlantic Highlands, N.J. : Humanities Press, 1996.

Jean Grondin**,** ***Introduction to philosophical hermeneutics***. Trans. by Joel Weinsheimer**.** New Haven : Yale University Press, 1994.

Richard Kearney, ***Modern Movements in European Philosophy***. 2nd edition. New York : Manchester University Press, 1994.

Gary B. Madison**,** ***The hermeneutics of postmodernity: figures and themes*.** Bloomington : Indiana University Press, 1988.

Richard E. Palmer**,** ***Hermeneutics: interpretation theory in Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger, and Gadamer*.** Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1969.

專題探討 (暫定) –

Gerald L. Bruns, ***Hermeneutics, ancient and modern*.** New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.

Ilse N. Bulhof**,** ***Wilhelm Dilthey, a hermeneutic approach to the study of history and culture*.** The Hague : M. Nijhoff Publishers, 1980.

John D. Caputo**,** ***Radical hermeneutics : repetition, deconstruction, and the hermeneutic project.*** Bloomington : Indiana University Press, 1987.

Jean Grondin**,** ***The philosophy of Gadamer.*** Translated by Kathryn Plant**.** Montreal : McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003

Gary B. Madison**,** ***The politics of postmodernity : essays in applied hermeneutics*.** Boston : Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001.

Jos de Mul**,** ***The tragedy of finitude : Dilthey's hermeneutics of life*. Translated by Tony Burrett.** New Haven : Yale University Press, 2004.

Gary Shapiro and Alan Sica (ed.), ***Hermeneutics : questions and prospects*.** Amherst : University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.

Hugh J. Silverman (ed.), ***Gadamer and hermeneutics*.** London : Routledge, 1991.

Karl Simms, ***Paul Ricoeur.*** New York : Routledge, 2003.

John B. Thompson, ***Critical hermeneutics : a study in the thought of Paul Ricoeur and Jürgen Habermas.*** New York: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

Gianni Vattimo, ***Beyond interpretation : the meaning of hermeneutics for philosophy.*** Translated by David Webb. Cambridge, UK : Polity Press, 1997.

Brice R. Wachterhauser (ed.), ***Hermeneutics and modern philosophy***. Albany, N.Y. : State University of New York Press, 1986.

Brice R. Wachterhauser (ed.), ***Hermeneutics and truth***. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1994.

Georgia Warnke, ***Gadamer : hermeneutics, tradition and reason.*** Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1987.

Details of course website

We use Blackboard for this course. Relevant announcements and course documents (e.g., lecture notes) will be posted regularly on the website.

Feedback for evaluation

1. Students are welcome to give feedback on the course at any time. They can do so by communication to teacher or tutor in class, by email, posting comments and questions to the eLearing platform, or during tutorials.
2. As with all courses in Philosophy Department, students evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term.

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.