PHIL4532 Seminar on Western Philosophy:

Fichte's Wissenschaftslehre Nova Methodo

Course Outline

Time：Tue 2:30pm-5:15pm	**Location: TBC**

Course overview

This seminar provides a close reading and analysis of Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762-1814)'s 'Science of Knowledge' as presented in his *Wissenschaftslehre nova methodo* (1796/99). *Wissenschaftslehre nova methodo* offers an accessible account of Fichte's original idealistic insights on concepts such as space, time, matter, efficacy, pure will, limitation, summons, freedom, body, and etc. The aim of this course is to reconstruct Fichte's arguments with reference to original passages.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Gain competence in explaining and evaluating the key concepts and theories addressed in the course.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary and secondary source texts in the syllabus.
3. Engage in in-depth discussion on the selected topics of the course.
4. Demonstrate ability to articulate and defend one's own philosophical theses with clarity.
5. Demonstrate consolidated skills in expository and argument writing.

Topics

1. Concept of the I and intellectual intuition
2. Relation of the I to the Not-I
3. Identity of Practical Power and Intellect
4. Drive and Feeling
5. Object and Ideal
6. Phenomena and Noumena
7. External efficacy and space
8. Pure will and time
9. Summons and other minds
10. Freedom and nature

Learning activities

The learning activities consist of a 2-hour lecture per week and a 2-hour tutorial session in alternate weeks (beginning from the third teaching week).

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

Task nature	***Description***	***Weight***
Essays	Final essay	70%
Presentation	Tutorial presentation	30%

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

Breazeale, Daniel. (2013). *Thinking Through the Wissenschaftslehre: Themes from Fichte's Early Philosophy*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Bykova, Marina F. (ed.) (2020). *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Fichte*, London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Fichte, J.G. (1796-1799). *Foundations of Transcendental Philosophy (Wissenschaftslehre) nova methodo*, trans. and ed. Daniel Breazeale, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1992

James, David and Günter Zöller (eds.) (2016). *The Cambridge Companion to Fichte*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Martin, Wayne M. (1997). *Idealism and Objectivity: Understanding Fichte's Jena Project*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Neuhouser, Frederick. (1990). *Fichte's Theory of Subjectivity*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wood, Allen W. (2016). *Fichte's Ethical Thought*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Zöller, Günter (1998). *Fichte's Transcendental Philosophy: The Original Duplicity of Intelligence and Will*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Course schedule

Week	***Topics***	***Required reading***	***Tutorials***	***Remarks***
1	Introduction	First and Second Introduction		
2	Intellectual Intuition; Relation of the I to the Not-I	§§1-3		
3	The I as the Identity of Practical Power and Intellect	§§3-5		
4	Drive and Feeling	§§6-7		
5	Representation of the Thing	§8-9		
6	Space and Time	§10-11		
7	Feeling of Ought	§§12-13		
8	Unification of Cognition of the Object with the Will	§§14		
9	The I's Task of Limiting Its Will by Itself	§15		

10	Summons	§16		
11	Self-Discovery as Willing Subject	§17		
12	Other Minds and Things	§18		
13	Articulated Body and Organized Nature	§19		

Details of course website

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

Teacher	
Name:	Prof. Tse Chiu-yui Plato
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

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.