**PHIL1110**
**Introduction to Philosophy 哲學概論**

## Course Outline

| | |
|---|---|
| **Time: T 10:30am-1:15pm** | **Location: WMY 403** |

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

This course offers a general and fun introduction to philosophical thinking and problems. Students will gain a basic familiarity with some of the major philosophical fields, figures, and issues from the perspective of a variety of global philosophical traditions.

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

1. Grasp basic concepts in philosophical thinking.

2. Ability to reflect in a critical manner on philosophical issues and their relations.

3. Understand the importance of philosophical reflection and bring it to bear on things that matter in life.

4. Become familiar with some of the important historical figures, traditions, and sub-fields in the discipline of philosophy.

**Topics**

What is philosophy?

Branches of philosophy

What is being?

What is knowledge?

What is truth?

What is mind?

What is a self?

Are we free?

What is the meaning of life?

What is happiness?

Why be just?

What is death?

**Learning activities**

1. Attend lectures (approximately 2 hours)
2. Attend and participate in tutorials, held every week with the lectures (approximately 45 minutes)
3. Read the required and supplementary texts before each lecture.

**Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)**

| ***Task nature*** | ***Description*** | ***Weight*** |
|---|---|---|
| Presentation | | 30% |
| Class Participation | | 10% |
| Final Exam | | 60% |

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

Attendance is mandatory and *absence will damage your grades*.

**Grade Descriptor**

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

**Recommended learning resources**


Blackburn, S. 1999. *Think. A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy*. Oxford University Press.

Cahn, S. (ed.). 2012. *Classics of Western philosophy*, 8th edition. Hackett.

Fosl, P & J. Baggini. 2020. *The Philosopher's Toolkit. A Compendium of Philosophical Concepts and Methods*, 3rd edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

Hetherington, S. 2022. *Reality? Knowledge? Philosophy! An Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology.* Edinburgh University Press.

Nagel, T. 1987. *What Does It All Mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy*. Oxford University Press

Rachels, J. & S. Rachels. 2021. *Problems from Philosophy. An Introductory Text*. 4th edition, Rowman & Littlefield. (=R)

Russell, B. 1998. *The Problems of Philosophy*, 2nd edition. Oxford University Press.

Solomon, R & K. Higgins. 2014. *The Big Questions. A Short Introduction to Philosophy*. 9th edition. Wadsworth. (=S)

Warburton, N. 2014. *Philosophy. The Classics*. 4th edition. Routledge.

**Course schedule**

| *Week* | *Topics* | *Required reading* | *Remarks* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | What is philosophy? | | |
| 2 | Branches of philosophy | S, Introduction | |
| 3 | What is being? | S, Ch.4 | |
| 4 | What is knowledge? | R, Ch.10 | |
| 5 | What is truth? | S, Ch.5 | |
| 6 | What is mind? | R, Ch.6 | |
| 7 | What is a self? | R, Ch.5 | |
| 8 | Are we free? | S, Ch.7 | |
| 9 | What is the meaning of life? | S, Ch.2 | |
| 10 | What is happiness? | S, Ch.8 | |
| 11 | Why be just? | R, Ch.12 | |
| 12 | What is death? | R, Ch.4 | |

**Contact details for teacher**

| **Teacher** | |
|---|---|
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**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.