PHIL2060B
Philosophy and Human Conditions 哲學與人生處境

2025-2026, Term 2

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: Wednesday 10:30am-1:15pm	**Location: UCC 204**

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.

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 (note that we may not cover all topics below)

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? 情爲何物？

Religious faith 宗教信仰

Absurdity and meaning 荒謬與意義

Right and wrong 對與錯

On virtue 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 (about 6 times in total) 27%: We won't use AI. Answer the question posed in class. Write only 3 to 4 sentences each time—please write thoughtfully and omit unnecessary words. Both Chinese and English are acceptable. The teacher will carefully read each answer, but to simplify the process, your responses may not be returned. Each response will receive either a B+ or an A. It isn't easy to get an A!

2) Participation 13%: More details will be provided at the first meeting.

3) Class Presentation 20%: The students responsible for it should email an outline to the teacher two days before the presentation.

4) Commenting on a Class Presentation 10%: Commentators should also demonstrate an excellent grasp of the required reading.

5) Final Paper 30%: English 3000-4000 words or Chinese 6000-8000 words. More details will be provided in due course.

About arriving late (關於遲到): Please arrive on time.:-) This helps ensure that class discussions are not disrupted by late arrivals. However, if you must be late or absent for a justifiable reason, please email me (flmang@cuhk.edu.hk) at least one day before the lecture.

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any): NA

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

▪ **Approach 1 – Prohibit all use of AI tools**

 # AI Tools Usage Approach:

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)

Teacher	
Name:	Mang Fan-lun (Franz)
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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.