

**PHIL5360/PHIL7360 Seminar on Continental European Philosophy:
What is truth?**

Course Outline

Mode of Teaching: Face-to-face Teaching

Term: 2025-26 Term 2

Time : Thursday 18:30-21:30

Location : YIA 505

Office Hours: Tuesday 11am-12pm

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course is devoted to thinking about a single question; *What is truth?* The course will investigate different concepts of truth from different historical periods in the Western tradition. Traditions include Ancient Greek Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, German Idealism, Phenomenology, Post-Modernism, Existentialism and Analytic Philosophy, amongst others. The course will give special attention to the relation between truth and knowledge as well as truth and existence. Students may repeat the course for credit, provided that two courses with identical course codes are not elected in the same semester.

Topics/Schedule (Tentative)

Truth

Falsehood

Knowledge

Existence

Nonexistence

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Demonstrate a solid grasp of the issues discussed.
2. Analyze and critically interpret some significant primary texts in Continental European Philosophy.
3. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to conduct independent research on the topics covered and related issues.

Learning activities

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

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Seminar Paper	See Below	50%
Argument Critique	See Below	30%
Reading Reflections	See Below	20%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

The Argument Critique

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.

The 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 be at least 12 double spaced pages.

Reading Reflections

Each week you will be assigned a reading. Before class meets, write at least one half an A4 page (single space, 12-point font) on the reading assigned for the previous week. You are invited to reconstruct the arguments in key passages, comment on the arguments, raise questions about the ideas, or apply the text to your own personal experience. The reflection is due before class begins. Either submit them in hard copy or via email to the tutor. Late submissions will not be accepted.

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

Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

Recommended learning resources (Tentative)

See Blackboard or contact the instructor.

AI tools usage guide

Prohibit all use of AI tools

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Required reading</i>
1	<i>Introduction: The Problem of Truth</i>
2	Plato
3	Aristotle
4	Aquinas
5	Cusanus
6	Descartes and Kant
7	Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel
8	Kierkegaard, Nietzsche
9	The Russell-Bradley Dispute, and William James
10	Positivism and Postmodernism (Rorty and Lyotard), Ramsey and Strawson
11	Phenomenological Conceptions (Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty)
12	Dialetheism and The Trans-Consistent Theory of Truth
13	Concluding Discussions

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

Teacher	
Name:	Prof. Gregory MOSS
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TA	
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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/>

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.