ARTS6002 Advanced Studies in the Humanities
Friendship and Human Becoming

Course Outline

Time：Wed 14:30-17:15	**Location: KHB 101**

Course overview

This course aims at exploring the experience of friendship and its significance in the private as well as public spheres. It addresses this topic from a variety of perspectives and in genuinely interdisciplinary, intercultural fashion. It will, moreover, draw upon music, films, and other arts. Please note that this is an introductory postgraduate course, and no prior familiarity with the literature will be presupposed. The course will be structured in the following segments:

a. Brief historical outline: reflections on friendship in Western culture from antiquity to modernity. Reading: Lorraine Pangle, *Aristotle and the Philosophy of Friendship* (excerpts).

b. Friendship in ancient Greek philosophy, understood as both a bond between individuals and a possible mode of political coexistence. Reading: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* 8-9.

c. Friendship and human nature. Readings: Bacon, Montaigne, Carl Schmitt, Plato (excerpts).

d. The educational and pedagogical functions of friendship. Reading: *Mahabharata* (excerpts).

e. The dialectic friend-enemy. Readings: Matteo Ricci, *On Friendship: One Hundred Maxims for a Chinese Prince*; Sun Tzu, *The Art Of War* (excerpts).

f. Friendship, love, and loss. Readings: Plato, *Symposium*; Freud, "Mourning and Melancholia" (excerpts).

g. Solitude and the new technologies.

The course will include lectures as well as student presentations and discussion in seminar style.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Acquire critical familiarity with the issues discussed.

2. Analyze and critically interpret some significant primary texts in the Humanities chosen by the course instructor.

Course Topics

See above, Course overview

Learning activities

The course is designed to function as both a research seminar and a discussion forum. It will include prepared inputs from the instructor as well as student presentations based on the provided reading materials. The structure and content can be adjusted as needed.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

Task nature	***Description***	***Weight***
Essays	Complete a research paper related to the course content	50%
Essay test or exam		

Presentation	Carefully read the assigned materials and actively participate in class discussions	50%

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

The required texts listed in the schedule.

Guidelines on the use of Artificial Intelligence tools

Approach 1 – Prohibit all use of AI tools
Students are not allowed to use any AI tools in any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards students' final grade of the course, or used for evaluating students' attainment of the desired learning outcomes. Students are expected to produce their own work independently without any collaboration or use of AI tools.

Course schedule

Week	***Topics***	***Required reading***	***Tutorials***	***Remarks***
1	Historical outline	Lorraine Pangle, *Aristotle and the Philosophy of Friendship* (excerpts)		
2	Friendship in ancient Greek philosophy	Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* 8-9		
3	Friendship in ancient Greek philosophy	Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* 8-9		
4	Friendship in ancient Greek philosophy	Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* 8-9		
5	Friendship and human nature	Francis Bacon, "Of Friendship"		
6	Friendship and human nature	Michel de Montaigne, "On Friendship"		
7	Friendship and human nature	Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (excerpts)		
8	Friendship and human nature	Plato, *Republic* (excerpts)		
9	The educational and pedagogical functions of friendship	*Mahabharata* (excerpts)		
10	The dialectic friend-enemy	Matteo Ricci, *On Friendship: One*		

		Hundred Maxims for a Chinese Prince		
11	The dialectic friend-enemy	Sun Tzu, *The Art Of War* (excerpts)		
12	Friendship, love, and loss	Plato, *Symposium* (excerpts)		
13	Friendship, love, and loss	Sigmund Freud, "Mourning and Melancholia"		
14	Solitude and the new technologies			

Details of course website

[to be provided]

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

Teacher	
Name:	Claudia Baracchi
Office location:	
Telephone:	
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TA	
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
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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.