PHIL 3302
Analytic Philosophy 分析哲學

Course Outline

Time: H 3:30pm-6:15pm	Location: ERB 712

Course overview

This course introduces students to contemporary analytic philosophy through the study of ten classic philosophical problems. The course is organized around five core areas of analytic philosophy: metaphysics, philosophy of mind, epistemology, ethics, and philosophy of language. In each area, we will examine two influential problems and the major theories developed in response to them. Through close engagement with philosophical texts, students will learn to analyze arguments and develop their own reasoned views on some fundamental questions in analytic philosophy.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand major problems, concepts, and theories in contemporary analytic philosophy.

2. Enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics

Free will, mind and consciousness, the problem of induction, Grue paradox, moral realism, moral expressivism, vagueness and sorites paradox

Learning activities

Lecture, Discussion, and Tutorial.

Assessment scheme

Task nature	*Description*	*Weight*
Attendance	Attendance is mandatory except for documented medical reasons. A random roster call will be conducted in each class session. If your name is called and you are absent without prior notification and permission, your attendance and participation grade will be reduced by 5 points for each occurrence.	15%

Homework and Tutorial	Beginning in Week 2, you are required to submit a weekly reading response. The response may either raise a question about the material or present an objection to the author's arguments.[1] Beginning in Week 2, you are also required to participate in weekly tutorial discussions. In these tutorials, you will discuss the reading responses you submitted or raise any other questions you have about the assigned readings or that week's lecture. Your performance on homework assignments and tutorials will be evaluated based on completion of submissions, the quality of your responses, and the level of your participation in tutorial discussions.	35%
Midterm Test	There will be a midterm test on Week 8, covering materials from the first seven weeks	20%
Final paper	2000-2500 words; topic TBA	30%

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

There are no textbooks for this course. All readings are from assigned papers or book chapters.

External Resources

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Google Scholar; Philpapers; Contemporary Debates in Epistemology (3rd edition).

Course schedule (Tentative)

Week/ Date	Topics	Required Reading
1 (14/1)	Introduction	No Reading

[1] For reading responses: the response can either raise a question about the material or an objection to the author's arguments. Here are some examples: 'I don't understand the author's claim on page XX, second paragraph: does he mean A, or B?'; 'On page XX, the author argues that …. How is this argument relevant to the author's thesis?' ; 'I find the author's argument on page XX unconvincing. Here is why.'; 'On page XX, the second paragraph, the author says … Does this issue connect to the question we've read and discussed on week 4?' Your writing should be one paragraph long.

2 (21/1)	Free Will (I)	Peter van Inwagen, "The Powers of Rational Beings: Freedom of the Will"
3 (28/1)	Free Will (II): Compatibilism	Harry Frankfurt, "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility" Harry Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person."
4 (4/2)	Functionalism of Mind	Jaegwon Kim, "Machine Functionalism & Causal-Theoretical Functionalism" John R. Searle, "Can Computers Think?"
5 (11/2)	No Class (Holiday)	
6 (18/2)	Phenomenal Consciousness	Joseph Levine, "Materialism and Qualia: The Explanatory Gap" Thomas Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?" Frank Jackson, "What Mary didn't know"
7 (25/2)	The Problem of Induction	David Hume, "Skeptical Doubts Concerning the Operations of the Understanding"
8 (4/3)	Midterm Test	
9 (11/3)	No Class (Holiday)	
10 (18/3)	Grue Paradox	Nelson Goodman, "The New Riddle of Induction" (section 4)
11 (25/3)	Debunking Argument Against Moral Realism	Sharon Street, "A Darwinian Dilemma for Realist Theories of Value." Guy Kahane, "Evolutionary Debunking Arguments."
12 (1/4)	Moral Expressivism	A. J. Ayer, "Critique of Ethics and Theology." Simon Blackburn, "How to Be an Ethical Anti-Realist." (Skip Section II and Addendum)
13 (8/4)	Vagueness (I): Sorites Paradox	Bertrand Russell, "Vagueness" Diana Raffman, "Vagueness without Paradox"
14 (15/4)	Vagueness (II): Competing Theories	Timothy Williamson, "Vagueness and Ignorance" Rosanna Keefe, 'Vagueness: Supervaluationism.'
15 (22/4)	Review; Philosophical Writing	No Reading

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

Teacher	
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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/

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.

AI Use Policy Note:

All use of AI tools is prohibited for this course. You are not allowed to use any AI tools in any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards your final grade of the course. You are expected to produce your own work independently without any collaboration or use of AI tools.