The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Philosophy

Course Code: PHIL 2302
Course Title: Guided Studies in Western Philosophical Classics
Chinese Title: 西方哲學原典導讀： 柏拉圖《治國篇》(*Republic*)
Course Outline 課程大綱

2026-27 Term 1
Time： **W 9:30 - 12:15** **Location：**

Contact details for teacher(s)

Teacher	
Name:	王耀航 (WONG, Yiu-hong)
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Course overview :

課程簡介： 本課程主要研討柏拉圖對話錄(dialogue)經典之一，《理想國》(*Republic*)。《理想國》篇章，究其本源，更應稱之為《治國》(*Politeia*)。「理想國」之用語，語意較為廣泛模糊，反而容易使讀者誤以為柏拉圖的主旨，只在於提倡一種非現實的政體，高呼某類烏有鄉之幻想。實情是，透過反覆論辯何謂「公正」(**justice**)的要義，欲求得治理城邦(Polis)的政治法理。再者，柏拉圖更希望指出，把握「公正」的理則，不單是為了將抽象法則應用於維持社會的政治秩序，「公正」亦是一種引導人類心靈(**psyche**)達致圓滿的重要品德(**virtue**)。換言之，無論城邦的治理抑或心靈的整合，「公正」的形式均貫穿其間，恰如一鏡像反映，產生無盡的交替共鳴。此外，《治國》篇還談及「洞穴比喻」，太陽與「善之理念」的玄妙類比。這些論題一方面，正是構成「柏拉圖式」形上學和知識學說的根基；另一方面，它們對於與城邦治理的探討相互並行的倫理學說，更提供了進一步的解釋理據。

This course examines the major problems and issues in Plato's philosophy through a close reading on his major texts. The major focus is directing to the selected texts, *Republic* (and may be some extracts from other dialogues).

And, this is an undergraduate seminar course devoted to reading and interpreting selected works in Western philosophy and discussing the interpretive and philosophical issues raised by the text.

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

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the historical and cultural background of the philosophical classic selected for reading.
2. Read and interpret the texts, to analyze the content, to identify philosophical issues addressed, and to evaluate the arguments.
3. Acquire a critical view on the doctrines put forward in the texts.
4. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to research independently on the issues taught.

Topics may include :

1. 柏拉圖的哲學問題，其哲學與政治的關係，對話（dialogue）與辯證（dialectic）；柏拉圖與柏拉圖主義（Platonism）

2. 公正（justice），城邦（polis），法律，德性（virtue），正義，幸福（happiness）

3. 心靈（psyche /soul），理型/相（eidos），知識（episteme），洞穴比喻，善之理念（idea of the good）

4. 哲王（philosopher king），政治體制，開放社會（open society），極權主義（totalitarianism）

Learning activities

In this course, you are expected to

- read and think about the assigned readings
- develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing (short essays, final essays, and presentation, comment report of tutorial readings)
- attend *all* lectures/tutorials and participate in discussion

Activities and workload:

In-class (mandatory) :

1. Lecture: 1.5 hours for every week (2/ 2.5 hours for the first two or three weeks).
2. Interactive tutorial: one 1-hour session every week starting from week 3 or 4.
3. In-class presentation and comment on the required readings.

Out-of-class (average workload per week) :

1. Reading: 2–3 hours on the required and suggested readings, 2–3 hours on presentation/ comment reading assignments and presentation.
2. Essays: an average of 2–3 hours each week on reading the texts and preparing the essay throughout the semester.

Assessment scheme : Tentative arrangement

Task nature	*Description*	*Weight*
分組報告	報告同學必須理解所分配的閱讀材料，然後作課堂上的報告，並且須要最少在是次報告兩天前，提交詳細大綱；大綱約 A4 紙 4-6 頁為標準	30%
分組評論	評論同學必須理解閱讀材料，最少在評論兩天前，提交評論大綱，約 A4 紙 2-3 頁為標準	15%
課堂討論參與	課堂提問和討論 – 相關的，具啟發性反省	10%
短文一篇	約 1000 字，題目不得與報告選題重複 *最後遞交日期 - 11 月 30 日	15%
學期論文	不少於 2000 字，題目不得與 報告 選題重複 *最後遞交日期 - 12 月 18 日	30%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme :

*** Paper late submission: Students should submit their essay and term paper on / before the deadline. Late submission will be subject to mark deduction, a 5% deduction per one day. Details will be announced in Blackboard.**

- ***AI tool is not allowed in writing term paper, essay writing, and in-class presentation & comment.***

Grade descriptor :
http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

撰寫 報告，論文的有關指引將會在課堂中適當時間公佈

Course schedule (*tentative arrangement*)

Week		*Required reading*	*Suggest*	*Remarks*
1-2		Julia Annas, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic*; chapter : 2 (bk.1) Nikolas Pappas, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Plato and the Republic*; chapter : 1-2	Julia Annas, *Ancient Philosophy*; chapter : 2 'why do we read Plato's Republic'	
2-3		Julia Annas, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic*; chapter : 3, 4 (bk.2) Nikolas Pappas, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Plato and the Republic*; chapter : 3-4 Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book I	Christopher Gill, *Greek Thought*	

3-4		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book I	*The Cambridge Companion to Plato's Republic*; chapter 2	
4		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book II	TBA	
5		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book III	TBA	
6		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book IX	John Cooper, "Plato's Theory of Human Motivation" (1999)	
7-8		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book V	*The Cambridge Companion to Plato's Republic*; chapter 10	
8-9		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book VI	*The Cambridge Companion to Plato's Republic*; chapter 11	
9-10		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book VII	*The Blackwell Guide to Plato's Republic*	
10-11		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book VIII	TBA	
11-12		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book IX		
12-13		Plato, ***Republic.*** Referring to Book X		
13-14		Plato and Karl Popper	*Open Society and its Enemies*	

Recommended learning resources

原典資料 –

Plato, ***Republic***. Translated, with an introduction, by H. P. D. Lee**.** Harmondsworth : Penguin Books, 1973.

_____, *Plato's Republic*. Translated, with an introduction, by G. M. A. Grube**.** Indianapolis : Hackett Publishing, 1992.

_____, *Republic*. Trans. by Robin Waterfield**.** Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1993.

_____, ***The Republic***. Trans. by Tom Griffith. Edited, with an introduction and notes by G. R. F. Ferrari. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

_____, ***Republic***. Translated, with an introduction, by C. D. C. Reeve. Indianapolis : Hackett Publishing, 2004.

_____, ***The Republic of Plato***. Translated with notes by Allan Bloom. New York : Basic Books, 1968.

_____, 《理想國》。 郭斌和，張竹明 譯。北京 ： 商務印書館, 1996。

思想背景及通論 –

Julia Annas, ***Ancient Philosophy: a very short introduction***. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2000.

Hugh H. Benson (ed.), ***A Companion to Plato***. Oxford : Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

John Burnet, ***Greek Philosophy: Thales to Plato***. London : Macmillan Press, 1978.

Paul Cartledge, ***Ancient Greek Political Thought in Practice***. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

W. K. C. Guthrie, ***A History of Greek Philosophy. Vol. IV. – Plato : The Man and His Dialogues***. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975.

Christopher Gill, ***Greek Thought***. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1995.

Richard Kraut (ed.), ***The Cambridge Companion to Plato***. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Melissa Lane, ***Plato's Progeny***. London : Duckworth, 2001.

Christopher J. Rowe, ***Plato***. Sussex : The Harvester Press, 1984.

Stephen Salkever, ***The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Greek Political Thought***. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Malcolm Schofield, ***Plato: Political Philosophy***. London: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Thomas Szlezák, ***Reading Plato***. London : Routledge, 1999.

C. C. W. Taylor (ed.), ***Routledge History of Philosophy Vol. 1: From the Beginning to Plato***. London : Routledge, 2005.

專題探討 –

Julia Annas, ***An Introduction to Plato's Republic***. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1981.

Julia Annas, ***Platonic Ethics, Old and New***. Ithaca, NY : Cornell University Press, 1999.

Julia Annas / C. Rowe (ed.), ***New Perspectives on Plato: modern and ancient***. Washington, D.C. : Center for Hellenic Studies, 2002.

John M. Cooper, ***Reason and Emotion***. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University, 1999.

John M. Cooper, ***Pursuits of Wisdom***. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University, 2012.

Eric Havelock, ***The Greek Concept of Justice***. Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, 1978.

G. R. F. Ferrari (ed.), ***The Cambridge Companion to Plato's Republic***. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Gail Fine (ed.), ***Plato 1 & 2.*** New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Charles H. Kahn, ***Plato and the Socratic Dialogue***. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Richard Kraut (ed.), ***Plato's Republic: critical essays***. Lanham, MD : Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1997.

Mark L. McPherran (ed.), ***Plato's Republic: a critical guide*** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Nikolas Pappas**,** ***Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Plato and the Republic***. London : Routledge, 2000.

Karl Popper, ***The Open Society and its Enemies***. Volume 1, 2 (5th edition) Princeton : Princeton University, 1966.

Jean-Francois Pradeau, ***Plato and the City: a new introduction to Plato's Political Thought***. Exeter, UK : University of Exeter, 2002.

David Roochnik, ***Beautiful City : the Dialectical Character of Plato's Republic***. Ithaca, NY : Cornell University Press, 2003.

Gerasimos Santas (ed.), ***The Blackwell Guide to Plato's Republic***. Oxford : Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

John Sallis, ***Being and Logos: Reading the Platonic Dialogues***. 3rd Edition. Bloomington : Indiana University Press, 1996.

Leo Strauss, ***The City and Man***. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978.

Nicholas P. White**,** ***A Companion to Plato's Republic***. Oxford : Blackwell Press, 1979.

Catherine H. Zuckert, ***Plato's Philosophers: the Coherence of the Dialogues***. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Details of course website

We use Blackboard for this course. Relevant announcements and course documents (e.g., lecture notes) will be posted regularly on the website.

Feedback for evaluation

1. Students are welcome to give feedback on the course at any time. They can do so by communication to teacher or tutor in class, by email, posting comments and questions to the eLearing platform, or during tutorials.
2. As with all courses in Philosophy Department, students evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term.

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.