PHIL4153
Philosophy of Culture 文化哲學
The Philosophy of Mythology

Course Outline

Time: H 10:30am-1:15pm	**Location: ERB 408**

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course introduces the philosophy of culture with a special emphasis on the *philosophy of mythology.*

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

Learning outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate familiarity with main ideas from the primary source texts.

2. Students will be able to successfully articulate and defend a philosophical thesis of their own.

3. Students will develop the capacity to think through a philosophical problem, reconstruct a philosophical argument from a primary text, and develop the capacity to construct their own critiques.

4. Students will develop a basic comprehension of the history of the philosophy of mythology in the Western tradition.

Topics

Culture and Mythology

The History of the Philosophy of Mythology

The Relationship between Mythology, Science, Religion, Art, and Philosophy

Mythology, Violence, and History

Magic, Magical Culture, and Disenchantment

Ritual, Narrative, and Sacrifice

Typologies of Mythology

The Autonomy of Culture

Culture and Nature

Sociological and Psychological Approaches the Myth

Cultural and Philosophical Anthropology

Learning activities

Attend lectures and participate in class discussions.

Assessment scheme

Task nature	*Weight*
Reading Reflections	15%
Argument Critique	35%
Final Exam	40%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

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. Students should be prepared to share their reflections in class.

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 **5 to 8 double spaced pages** in length. Each student will meet with the Professor during office hours to discuss their rough draft before submitting the final draft.

The Final Exam

The exam is cumulative and will draw upon material from the readings and the lectures. The exams give you the opportunity to synthesize the material and to think about the course on the whole. You will be asked to reconstruct the positions of the philosophers whom we have read as well as the arguments that they employ to defend their positions. Finally, you will put them into dialogue with each other, and consider potential critiques of their positions, as well as potential responses.

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.

Participation:

Attendance is mandatory and absence will damage your grades. **Two unexcused absences are permitted.** For each unexcused absence beyond two, **one-half a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade**. In case of emergencies, either notify me of your absence ahead of time, or plan to bring some formal documentation of your absence. Without documentation, I will not accept absences as excused.

Grade Descriptor

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

Recommended learning resources

See Blackboard.

Course schedule

Week	***Topics***	***Required reading***
10/9	Introduction	Course Outline
17/9	Plato	*The Republic*
24/9	Giambattista Vico	*The New Science*
8/10	Friedrich Schlegel	*Talk on Myth*
15/10	F.W.J. Schelling	*Critical Introduction to the Philosophy of Mythology*
22/10	Ernst Cassirer	*The Philosophy of Symbolic Forms: Volume 2*
29/10	Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung	*Totem and Taboo* and *Jung on Mythology*
5/11	Rene Girard	*Violence and the Sacred*
12/11	Adorno and Horkheimer	*The Dialectic of Enlightenment*
19/11	Strauss, Clifford, and Holbraad	*Structural Anthropology*, *Writing Culture*, *The Ontological Turn*
26/11	Hans Blumenberg	*Work on Myth*
3/12	Gregory S. Moss	*The Mythical Absolute*

Final Exam: TBD

Details of course website

See Blackboard.

AI Policy

Students are prohibited from using AI.

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

Teacher	
Name:	Moss, Gregory
Office location:	Room 426, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 9875
Email:	gsmoss@cuhk.edu.hk

TA	
Name:	TBD
Office location:	TBD
Telephone:	TBD
Email:	TBD

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.