Course for MA Programme in Philosophy

Topics in Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies

Rational Thinking in Science and Humanities

哲學與跨學科探討專題：科學與人文的理性思考 (PHIL5593)

Date: Saturday Time: 14:30 – 17:30 Venue: YIA 505

(11 January – 24 April 2027 Week 19 to Week 33)

(Yasumoto International Academic Park 康本國際學術園)

Instructor

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Contact Hours: by appointment

Medium of Instruction: Cantonese (for Q&A, Putonghua and English also available)

Course Description

This course explores philosophy and its interdisciplinary intersections with rational thinking across scientific and humanistic disciplines. It encompasses eight core research domains: (1) Philosophy and Cognitive Science, (2) Philosophy and Experimental Psychology, (3) Philosophy and Logic, (4) Philosophy and Literature (Fables and Anecdotes), (5) Philosophy and Linguistics, (6) Philosophy and Philology, (7) Philosophy and Intellectual History, and (8) Philosophy and Religion. Each domain is paired with a dedicated thematic topic that demonstrates the intrinsic connections between Chinese and Western philosophical inquiries and the rational thinking embodied in other scientific and humanistic fields.

本課程聚焦哲學領域及其跨學科研究，探討科學與人文領域中的理性思維。課程涵蓋八大核心研究範疇：(一) 哲學與認知科學、(二) 哲學與實驗心理學、(三) 哲學與邏輯學、(四) 哲學與文學 (寓言與軼事)、(五) 哲學與語言學、(六) 哲學與語文考據學、(七) 哲學與思想史、(八) 哲學與宗教。每個範疇皆設置專屬研討主題，具體闡釋中西哲學研究如何與其他科學、人文領域的理性思維研究相互關聯、彼此融通。

Course Objectives

Through comparative and interdisciplinary studies of Chinese and Western philosophy, students can develop an in-depth grasp of the distinctive features of these two compatible

yet distinct philosophical traditions. The analytical and rational thinking cultivated in this process can be applied to other disciplines across the sciences and humanities. This learning experience broadens students' philosophical horizons, equips them with rigorous analytic methods to address philosophical problems, and enables them to explore the profound implications of philosophical ideas at a deeper level.

透過中西哲學的比較與跨學科研究，學生能夠深入掌握這兩大既可融通、又各具特色的哲學傳統之特質。本課程所培養的分析能力與理性思維，可遷移應用至自然科學與人文學科的各個領域。此學習歷程不僅能夠拓展學生的哲學視野，使其運用分析方法處理哲學問題，更能引導學生探究哲學思想深層的內涵與意蘊。

Course Outline

R Required Readings

B Background Readings

Topic 1 (with Cognitive Science): The Thought Experiment of Chinese Room Argument (中文房間論證的思想實驗)

Readings: 強 AI 論旨及其問題的性質 (馮耀明) R

Chinese Room Arguments (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) B

Topic 2 (with Experimental Psychology): The Story of Cook Ding's Dissecting an Ox (庖丁解牛的故事)

Readings: Skill and Dao in the Zhuangzi: with Special Reference to the Third Chapter on Nourishing Life (Yiu-ming Fung) R

莊子論技與道 (方萬全) B

Wu-wei Background and Intentionality (Chris Fraser) B

Topic 3 (with Logic): The Logical Role of Rigid Designators (直接意指詞的邏輯角色)

Readings: 克里普克的固定意指理論 (馮耀明) R

Rigid Designators (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) B

Topic 4 (with Literature): Zhuangzi's Fable of Dream of Butterfly

(莊周夢蝶的寓言)

Readings: 魚樂、真知與渾沌：濠梁之辯的邏輯分析 (馮耀明) R

The Case of the Happy Fish—Going Back to the Ordinary (Wan-chuan Fang) B

Topic 5 (with Linguistic): Mass Noun Semantics and Ontology

(物質名詞語意學與存有論)

Readings: The Very Idea of Mass-stuff Semantics (Yiu-ming Fung) R

Language and Logic in Ancient China (Selection) (Chad Hansen) B

Topic 6 (with Philology): The Surface and Deep Structure of Classical Chinese

(文言文的表面與深層結構)

Readings: A Bridge between Philosophy and Philology: With Special Reference to Dai Zhen's Thought (Yiu-ming Fung) R

Some Preliminary Observations on the Rise of Ch'ing Confucian Intellectualism (Yu Ying-shih) B

Topic 7 (with Intellectual History): The Unity of Heaven and Man

(天人合一)

Readings: 「天人之際」的概念分析 (馮耀明) R

論天人之際：中國古代思想起源試探 (選篇) (余英時) B

Topic 8 (with Religion): The Public Cases (*Gong-an*) of the Zen Buddhism

(禪宗佛教的公案)

Readings: How to Do Zen with Words (Yiu-ming Fung) R

John Searle's Reply B

Speech Acts (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) B

Requirements and Grading

(1) Regular Attendance and Discussion

(2) Mid-term Short Essay (Academic Paper or Book Report): 30%

(3) Final-term Academic Paper: 70%

AI Tools guidelines:

Approach 2 – Use only with prior permission

General References

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/

Thought Experiments

of Thought Experiments 2. Taxonomies of Thought Experiments 3. The History of Thought Experiments 4. ... of thought experiments and real-world experiments. Thought experiments and real-world experiments are... of thought experiments? Looking at the development of the discussion about thought experiments over...

James Robert Brown and Yiftach Fehige

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/thought-experiment/

Artificial Intelligence

Intelligence 8.1 “Strong” versus “Weak” AI 8.2 The Chinese Room Argument Against “Strong AI” 8.3 The ...computation. AI, at least of the “Strong” variety (we’ll discuss “Strong” versus “Weak” AI below) is ...Argument Against “Strong AI” 8.4 Additional Topics and Readings in Philosophy of AI 9. The Future...

Selmer Bringsjord and Naveen Sundar Govindarajulu

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/artificial-intelligence/

Cognitive Science

| emotion | experimental philosophy | folk psychology: as a theory | folk psychology: as mental simulation...philosophy until the nineteenth century, when experimental psychology developed. Wilhelm Wundt and his students...systematically. Within a few decades, however, experimental psychology became dominated by behaviorism, a view...

Paul Thagard

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/cognitive-science/

Culture and Cognitive Science

2016, “Qualitative Tools and Experimental Philosophy”, Philosophical Psychology, 29(8): 1128–1141. doi:10.1080... Reproducibility of Experimental Philosophy”, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, 12(1): 9–44. doi:10.1007...Counter-Examples, and Experimental Philosophy”, Review of Philosophy and Psychology, 1(3): 447–460. doi:...

Daniel Kelly and Andreas De Block

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/culture-cogsci/

The Philosophy of Neuroscience

of levels, including higher ones like experimental psychology, artificial intelligence, and philosophy...develop the technology, the experimental techniques, and ultimately the experimental results-driven theories...folk psychology and cognitive neuroscience as the latter develops. In particular, folk psychology appears...

John Bickle, Peter Mandik, and Anthony Landreth

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/neuroscience/

Methods in Comparative Cognition

variety of disciplines, including ethology, experimental psychology, and neuroscience. Philosophers and scientists...fieldwork on wild animals, for instance, while experimental psychology relies primarily on laboratory studies ...Simmel, 1944, “An Experimental Study of Apparent Behavior”, The American Journal of Psychology, 57(2): 243–...

Marta Halina

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/comparative-cognition/

Behaviorism

important in psychology … can be investigated in essence through the continued experimental and theoretical...Instrumental Discrimination Learning,” Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behavior Processes, 16: 262–70.... three sets of claims. Psychology is the science of behavior. Psychology is not the science of the ...

George Graham

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/behaviorism/

Hermann von Helmholtz

Sensation and perception in the history of experimental psychology, New York: Appleton-Century Company. Buchwald...Voluntarism in early psychology: the case of Hermann von Helmholtz,” History of Psychology, 17(2): 105–128...., Diana, 1984, “Psychology and Music,” pp. 155–194 in M. H. Bornstein (ed.) Psychology and its Allied ...

Lydia Patton

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hermann-helmholtz/

Action-based Theories of Perception

Experience of Perception", Journal of Experimental Psychology Monographs, 74(4, Pt 2): 1–36. Findlay...Perception of Curved Lines", Journal of Experimental Psychology, 16(1): 1–31. ——, 1966, The Senses Considered...Discordant Exafferent Stimulation", Journal of Experimental Psychology, 70(2): 189–191. Howard, I.P. and W.B....

Robert Briscoe, Rick Grush, and Alison Springle

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/action-perception/

Descriptions

extend the theory of descriptions to almost all uses of names—treating them as definite descriptions in disguise...problem of incomplete definite descriptions can be accounted for if we pursue an appropriate theory of quantifier...Unique Theory of Definite Descriptions," SALT 9: Proceedings from Semantics and Linguistic Theory IX, Ithaca...

Peter Ludlow

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/descriptions/

Names

s11229-013-0296-y Recanati, Francois, 1997, Direct Reference: From Language to Thought, Oxford: Blackwell...New York: Macmillan. Richard, Mark, 1983, "Direct Reference and Ascriptions of Belief", Journal of Philosophical...Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 99–132. ——, 1989, "Direct Reference and Propositional Attitudes", in Almog, Perry...

Sam Cumming

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/names/

Reference

properties like reference. Finding themselves dissatisfied with Kaplan's proposal here, other direct reference...genuinely referential, it is the direct intention that serves to fix reference.[13] So far, so good for...Studies, 168(1): 119–150. Recanati, F., 1997. Direct Reference: From Language to Thought, Oxford: Blackwell...

Eliot Michaelson

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/reference/

Action

the philosophy of action, such as action individuation, the logical form of action sentences, the relation... in an action explanation can only explain the action if they are also the cause of the action (the second...question. An action is causally basic iff there is no other (token) action that causes it. An action is teleologically...

Juan S. Piñeros Glasscock and Sergio Tenenbaum

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/action/

The Logic of Mass Expressions

the denotata of mass nouns, and interprets mass predication (e.g., This is water) in terms of parthood. ...class of mass nouns. However, semantics for mass nouns have generally focused on concrete terms, i.e., ...1987, "Mass terms and quantification", Linguistics and Philosophy, 10: 1–52. McKay, T., 2016, "Mass and ...

David Nicolas

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/logic-massexpress/

The Metaphysics of Mass Expressions

what are called 'mass terms/nouns' and 'count terms/nouns.' Burge goes on, "Mass terms are typically used... what follows, that the phrases 'mass nouns,' 'mass terms,' and 'mass expressions' will mean "noun/term...those who analyze mass expressions in terms of plural expressions, hold that mass terms are used, generally...

Mark Steen

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/metaphysics-massexpress/