

UGED 2261
Philosophy and Human Life 哲學與人生

Course Outline

Time : M 10:30-12:15

Location : CKB108

Instructor: Gregory S. Moss

**Office: Room 436, Fung King Hey
Building**

Office Hours: M 9:30-10:15

Course overview

This course investigates problems in different realms of human life from a philosophical point of view. It also demonstrates how philosophical thinking can make a distinctive contribution to our understanding of ourselves, others, and the world.

Learning outcomes

1. Grasp basic concepts in philosophical thinking.
2. Understand the importance of philosophical reflection and connect it to matters of concern in human life.

Topics

Philosophy and Rhetoric

Knowledge and Skepticism

The Problem of Faith and Reason

Metaphysics and the Origin of the World

The Existence of God(s)

Meta-Ethics: The Relation Between the Is and the Ought

The Nature of Consciousness and Mind

The Problem of Self-Consciousness

The Problem of Personal-Identity

Theories of the Good

Free Will and Determinism

Learning activities

Attend lectures and participate in class discussions.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Participation	See Critical Remarks on Assessment	25%
Argument Reconstruction	See Critical Remarks on Assessment	25%
Argument Critique	See Critical Remarks on Assessment	25%

Socratic Encounter	See Critical Remarks on Assessment	25%
--------------------	------------------------------------	-----

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (In Case the Course Moves Online)

***Same as Above**

Critical Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Class Participation:

Attendance is mandatory and *absence will damage your grades*. 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.

Argument Reconstruction:

The instructor will provide you with passages from the texts which we are reading, and will ask you to choose one passage to work on. You will reconstruct the argument contained in that passage. Reconstructing the argument will require you to carefully explicate the premises, (both implicit and explicit) and the conclusion of the argument. In order to succeed on this assignment, students must re-phrase the arguments *in their own words*. No quotations of the passage will be allowed. The reconstruction should be less than one page in length (*Double Spaced, 12 Point Font Times and Times New Roman*).

Argument Critiques:

The Argument Critiques consist of three parts. In respect to the papers, 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 formulate 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 should not be more than 3-5 double spaced pages in length (*Double Spaced, 12-point font, and Times New Roman.*)

Socratic Encounter

Socratic Encounters is a group project that require you to engage other persons inside of class in a Socratic conversation. The assignment teaches the student how to ask questions, and to construct arguments by asking questions. These conversations shall be highly regulated, and the rules governing the conversations shall be given in handouts.

Late Work/Make-Ups:

Late assignments will be penalized one-half a letter grade for each day the paper is tardy. If students would like a grade changed, students must provide me with a detailed written argument for why the grade should be changed, otherwise I will not consider it.

Grade Descriptors:

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

Required Texts:

All required texts will be provided online via Blackboard.

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
1	Introductory Lecture: What is philosophy?	
2	Philosophy and Rhetoric	
3	Knowledge, Truth, and Skepticism	
4	The Problem of Faith and Reason and the Existence of God	Argument Reconstruction Due
5	Metaphysics and the Problem of the World	
6	Free Will and Determinism	
7	Socratic Encounter Practice	
8	The Problem of Personal Identity	Socratic Encounter Due
9	The Problem of Consciousness and Self-Consciousness	
10	Virtue Ethics: Aristotle	
11	Kant and Utilitarianism; Meta-Ethics: The Is and the Ought	Argument Critique Due
12	Concluding Lecture	

Details of course website

We will use Blackboard for this course. Lecture notes and information on assignments and examinations will be posted on the website.

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

Teacher	
Name:	Moss, Gregory
Office location:	Room 436, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 9875
Email:	gsmoss@cuhk.edu.hk

Academic honesty and plagiarism

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 are required to submit a [signed declaration](#) (attachment 1) 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.

Feedback for evaluation

- a. Course and teaching evaluation survey will be conducted in the second last week of the course. Students are reminded of their responsibility and right to give feedback to facilitate enhancement of the course.
- b. Students are welcome to give feedbacks to the course teacher at any time in person or through emails.