



Course description

Course No.	1900809W	College	CHSS	Dept.	CHSS
Teacher	Hebiao Lou				
Time	2018.06.25—2018.07.27				
Course Name	English	Introduction to Philosophy			
	Chinese	哲学导论			
Course credits hours	Total	Theory	Office Hour or Practice	Credits	
	60	50	10	4.0	

Course description: Describe the nature, academic status, and aims of the course (theory, ability and technique)

1. Course nature and academic status

This course will examine some of the most salient problems that have intrigued the greatest western philosophers of all times. After a brief historical overview of the origins and nature of Philosophy as a discipline as well as its relations to the positive Sciences in general, the course will address a variety of philosophical topics in a clear and well structured way. To this aim, a selection of readings of some of the greatest philosophers of the past such as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Hume, Kant or Confucius shall be examined in class with a focus on student participation and all group discussion. This will encompass a number of matters involving all the main divisions of Philosophy which will be addressed from multiple perspectives. In this regard, we will approach topics such as the nature of our world outside, the scope and limits of human knowledge, the status of the natural as well as the social Sciences, the various definitions of the notion of truth, the concept of God, the free will, the relationship between body and soul or the chief conceptions of Ethics and Political Philosophy, to name just a few examples. The goal of our course is to understand the conceptual issues arising within those debates in an accurate manner and to provide the students with a clear picture of the main directions and schools in the history of Philosophical thinking.

2. Course aims (theory, ability and technique)

The aim of the course is an introduction to Philosophy aimed at undergraduate students who are not expected to possess any previous knowledge about the subject, the problems will be discussed closely and in fine technical detail.

Requirements for courses; ability and knowledge in advance

There is not particular knowledge about philosophy in advance. Basic English reading and communication skills are required to follow the lectures and discussions.

Course structure explanation:

Make clear the necessary parts, optional parts, distribution of hours. Courses with experiments or practice are expected to explain credit hours needed, content, scheme and functions.

Week 1: Introduction to the nature and origins of Philosophy.

Monday: What is Philosophy and how does it relate to the Sciences?.

Tuesday: The origins of Philosophy in Greece: *the Myth and the Logos*.

Wednesday: The origins of Philosophy in Greece (II): Pre-Socratic views of the world.

Thursday: The origins of Philosophy (II): The Sophists, Socrates and Plato.

Friday: Discussion Section.

Week 2: Core problems in Ontology and Methaphysics,

Monday: Ontology, Metaphysics and Epistemology- a (very) short terminological survey into the chief divisions of Philosophy.

Tuesday: *Does the world exist?:* realism, idealism and solipsism.

Wednesday: *How real is real enough?-* The debate between materialism and spiritualism.

Thursday: The question of God's existence- atheism, theism and agnosticism,

Friday: Discussion Section.

Week 3: Topics in Philosophy of Science and Epistemology.

Monday: A short introduction to Philosophy of Science: different accounts of the notion of Science.

Tuesday: Science and truth- An inquiry into the question of Scientific Realism vs. Empiricism.

Wednesday: *Can we actually know anything?* The divide between Rationalism and Empiricism on the scope and limits of human knowledge.

Thursday: *Midterm exam*

Friday: Discussion Section.

Week 4: Issues in Philosophical Anthropology.

Monday: *What does it mean to be human?.-* Biology , Ethology and Anthropology.

Tuesday: *What does it mean to be human?* (II): Culture and Anthropology. **Wednesday:** Problems concerning free will and determinism.

Thursday: Different views on the body/ soul dichotomy

Friday: Discussion Sections.

Week 5: Ethics, Politics and Aesthetics.

Monday: *How to do the right thing?* Core problems in Ethics.

Tuesday: Philosophy and the State: Conceptions of society in Political Philosophy.

Wednesday: *What does it take to be beautiful?*. Introduction to Aesthetics.

Thursday: Final exam.

Friday: Discussion Section

Teaching methods (Lectures, practice, etc)

Lectures in 2 hours each teaching period with ppt. Students are required to read materials from the textbook or reference books in order to meet the academic requirements.

Forms of evaluation and requirements

Structure of the final grade(including presence, class performance,), focus of exam, forms of exam(test, interview, final report, etc)

Reading report 30%, 2000 words
Discussion report 20%, 1500-2000 words
Final paper 50%, 4000 words

	Name	Publisher	Author	Year	Price
Textbook	<i>The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy</i>	Belmont: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning,	Solomon, Robert C. Higgins, Kathleen M.	<i>Ninth Edition.</i> 2014	
References	<i>Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction.</i>	Oxford: Oxford University Press.	Edward Craig	2002	
	<i>Philosophical propositions: an introduction to philosophy</i>	New York: Routledge,	Westphal, Jonathan	1998	
	<i>Philosophy: An Introduction to the Art of Wondering</i>	Belmont: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning,	Christian, James L.	2012	
Website					
Course members					
College					