

Introduction to Philosophy Course syllabus (Spring 2026)

哲學概論 課程大綱

Topic: God, evidence, and evil

主題：上帝、證據, 與 邪惡

*** **Important note:** This course will be taught primarily in Chinese.
 課堂教學主要以中文進行.

Instructor (授課教師): Kevin Kimble

Class time (上課時間): Tuesdays (週二) 10:10-12:00

Class room (教室): To be decided (待定)

My office (研究室): 423 Humanities Building (4F)

email:

Office hours (課輔時間): Tuesdays (週二) 13:00-15:00

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I. Course Description and Objectives 課程簡介與目標

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the selected topic (above) and to help students think philosophically about the issues and problems to be discussed. Students will be expected to grasp the key issues and theories involved, as well as critically evaluate the main arguments for and against various positions. 本課程旨在引導學生進入上述主題, 並幫助學生以哲學方式思考相關議題與問題. 學生需掌握主要的理論與爭點, 並能批判性地評估各種立場的主要論證.

Here is a brief summary of the topics and schedule:

以下為課程主題與初步的進度概要：

GOD 上帝 (02/23 – 03/17)

What concept of God should we adopt? Does God have a nature, and if so, what are the key attributes of that nature? Is the standard concept of God coherent, or is it problematic in some way?

我們應採取何種上帝觀？上帝是否有其本性？若有, 本性的主要屬性是什麼？傳統的上帝概念是否一致合理，或在某些方面存在問題？

EVIDENCE 證據 (03/24 – 04/14, 04/28)

Are there any evidence or arguments (philosophical, scientific, etc.) to support the existence of God, and if so, what are those arguments? Are those arguments plausible? Is it necessary for a person to have evidence or arguments for the existence of God, in order for that person's belief/ faith to be rational? Can a person know God or rationally believe in God without having any evidence or arguments at all? Is scientific knowledge compatible with rationally believing in the Christian God?

是否存在哲學或科學上的證據與論證支持上帝的存在？這些論證是否可信？一個人是否必須具備證據或論證，才能使其信仰／信念合理？人在沒有任何證據或論證的情況下，是否仍能認識上帝或合理地相信上帝？科學知識是否與合理地相信基督教的上帝相容？

EVIL 邪惡 (05/05 – 06/02)

Is the existence of evil and suffering compatible with believing in God? Does the presence of the large quantities of evil and suffering we see in the world render the existence of God, such as the Christian God, improbable or implausible? What are some of the explanations or solutions philosophers have proposed for why God allows evil and suffering, and are these solutions tenable?

邪惡與苦難的存在是否與信仰上帝相容？世界上大量的邪惡與苦難是否使上帝（如基督教的上帝）的存在變得不可能或不可信？哲學家提出過哪些解釋或方案來說明為何上帝允許邪惡與苦難？這些方案是否站得住腳？

II. Required course reading 指定閱讀

The course reading consists of selected chapters from the following textbook:
課程閱讀為以下教科書的選定章節：

Chad Meister, *Introducing Philosophy of Religion*. NY: Routledge, 2009.

(The volume of required reading will not be a lot; roughly 8 pages per week on average.) （閱讀量不多，平均每週約 8 頁。）

The reading assigned for a given week should be completed by the time class begins each Tuesday, as preparation for class discussion.
每週指定閱讀需於週二上課前完成，以便參與課堂討論。

III. Requirements and Grading 課程要求與評量方式

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| 1. An “objective-style” midterm exam
期中考 | (04/21) | 佔 35% |
| 2. An “objective-style” final exam
期末考 | (06/09) | 佔 35% |
| 3. Periodic small group discussions
不定期分組討論 | | 佔 30% |

(“Objective-style” exam = T/F questions, multiple choice questions, fill-in-the-blank questions, and short-answer questions.)

“Objective - style” 考試包括：是非題、選擇題、填空題與簡答題

Other notes:

其他說明:

The instructor will provide written class notes in English each week, which can be downloaded from Ecourse; the instructor will primarily use Chinese for the in-class teaching.

教師每週將提供英文課堂講義, 可於 Ecourse 平台下載；
課堂教學主要以中文進行。

The exam questions will be given in English, but students may write their answers in Chinese. 考試題目將以英文出題，但學生可用中文作答。