

## **PHZ104 Writing Philosophy Papers (Fall 2022)**

Instructor: Charlie Siu

Email: xiaohj25@mail.sysu.edu.cn

### **Course Description**

This course will start with an introduction to basic concepts in philosophy such as arguments and validity. Since writing philosophy is best learned by actually doing it, every week some of you will be asked to read a short philosophical text and respond to questions prepared by the instructor. Your responses will be shared anonymously with the whole class before we discuss them in the class meetings. In the middle of the semester, as well as towards the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a philosophical essay of about 600-800 words.

### **Course Requirements**

1. 2 short responses to instructor's questions (20%);
2. Midterm essay (35%);
3. Final essay (45%).

### **Readings**

The readings will be drawn from Gideon Rosen, Alex Byrne, et al.(editors) *The Norton Introduction to Philosophy* (Second Edition)

### **Schedule**

Week 1: Introductory meeting

Week 2: Anselm of Canterbury, The Ontological Argument, from Proslogion

Week 3: Thomas Aquinas, The Five Ways, from Summa Theologica

Week 4: Blaise Pascal, The Wager, from Pensées

Week 5: Plato, Meno

Week 6: Edmund Gettier, Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?

Week 7: Timothy Williamson, Knowledge and Belief

Week 8: David Hume, Sceptical Doubts Concerning the Operations of the Understanding, Section IV

Week 9: Sceptical Solution of These Doubts, Section V, from An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding

Week 10: Discussion on mid-term essay

Week 11: Nelson Goodman, The New Riddle of Induction, from Fact, Fiction and Forecast

Week 12: Bertrand Russell, The Argument from Analogy, from Human Knowledge: Its Scope and Limits

Week 13: Rene Descartes, Meditation I: What can be called in doubt, from Meditations on First Philosophy

Week 14: G.E. Moore, Proof of an external world

Week 15: Bertrand Russell, Appearance and Reality, from The Problems of Philosophy

Week 16: Peter Unger, There are no ordinary things

Week 17: Discussion on final essay