

**Lingnan University**  
**Department of Philosophy**

<b>Course Title</b>	: Directed Research Project
<b>Course Code</b>	: PHI4301
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	: 4 <sup>th</sup> year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Individual consultations
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 1 hour per week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	: Elective
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	: GPA of 3 for philosophy courses taken by the student in the first three years of study.
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	: N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	: This course is available to Philosophy Majors only.
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	: N/A

**Brief Course Description**

In-depth study of a selected philosophical topic, under a teacher's supervision.

**Aims**

To offer an opportunity to more ambitious students to undertake a detailed analysis of a philosophical problem of their own interest.

**Learning Outcomes**

- (i) developing the skills of philosophical interpretation
- (ii) improving the writing skills
- (iii) learning how to structure and organize a longer philosophical essay
- (iv) strengthening the ability to evaluate critically philosophical arguments
- (v) learning how to defend one's own view after examining a complex philosophical issue

**Indicative Content**

Varies with the topic of the project

**Teaching Method**

Individual consultations

**Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

Students' progress towards the learning outcomes outlined above will be measured by:

- (i) continual weekly discussions with the student
- (ii) evaluating the student's drafts of certain sections, submitted at regular intervals
- (iii) grading of the dissertation

**Assessment**

Dissertation – 100%

The student will write a dissertation of 5,000-10,000 words in length. This will be assessed on the scope, cogency and clarity of its argument, on its use of scholarly apparatus, and where applicable, on its originality.

The student's progress will be monitored regularly and reviewed after one term (in the examinations period). If the student's progress is not satisfactory, viz. is expected to be unable to achieve B- or above at the end of the project, the supervisor has the option to discontinue the Directed Research Project at this stage and to award either 3 credits with a grade of C+ or below or no credits on the basis of the student's written work at that point. If the student's progress is satisfactory, the student will carry on the project in the second term (without receiving a formal grade

after the first term). The supervisor will assign a grade at the end of the second term, on the basis of the student's work in the whole two-term project, and the grade will be associated with 6 credits.

**Required Readings**

Varies with the topic of the project

**Supplementary Readings**

Varies with the topic of the project

**Important Notes**

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>