

Readings for Fall Comprehensive Exam (UPDATED May 2018)

All Graduate Students (MA Program) are expected to successfully pass the Comprehensive Exam (see Catalogue description). The Comprehensive Exam is administered every semester, on the 3rd Friday of the semester. It is a take home, written exam that must be picked up after 1 p.m. on that Friday and returned to the Department Office by noon (12 p.m.) the following Monday. The answers to the Comprehensive Exam questions must be typed, double spaced, and properly cited. The length is not important. **The Exam will be composed of 12 questions, 3 in each category of Readings; Students will be expected to answer 1 (one) question in each category, for a total of 4 answered questions.**

Below is a list of Readings that you must be familiar with to successfully pass the Comprehensive Exam:

I. Metaphysics and Epistemology

ARISTOTLE – *Metaphysics*: Books I, IV, VII, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 13 and 17, XII, chapters 6, 7 and 9

LOCKE – *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*: Books I, II: chapters 1 and 8;

BERKELEY – *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*

KANT – *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*

II. Value Theory

ARISTOTLE – *Nicomachean Ethics*: Books, I, II, and X

HOBBS – *Leviathan*

KANT – *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*

MILL – *Utilitarianism*

III. History

PLATO – *Republic*: Books I, II to 376; IV, 427 to end; V, VI and VII

DESCARTES – *Meditations*

HUME – *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

IV. Contemporary Readings (These readings will change every 2 years)**

Donald Davidson (1973): "On the Very Idea of a Conceptual Scheme", *Proceedings and Addresses of the American Philosophical Association* 47: 5-20; reprinted in Donald Davidson (2001): *Inquiries into Truth and Interpretation* (2nd edition) (Oxford University Press), 183-198

David Wong (1989): "Three kinds of Incommensurability", in *Relativism: Interpretation and Confrontation*, edited by Michael Krausz (Notre Dame University Press), 140-159).

Umberto Eco (1992), *Interpretation and Overinterpretation* (Cambridge University Press), Chapter 2, 45-66.

Kwong-loi Shun (2016), "Methodological Reflections on the Study of Chinese Thought", in *Chinese Philosophy Methodology*, edited by Sor-hoon Tan (Bloomsbury), 57-74. [Note: this piece has its general methodological significance, instead of being restricted to studies of Chinese philosophical thought].

Mackie, J. L. (1977), *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, Penguin Books. (Only Chapter 1)

Paul, L. A. (2012), "Metaphysics as modeling: the handmaiden's tale", *Philosophical Studies* 160: 1-29.

Rudolph Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology", *Revue Internationale de Philosophie* 4 (1950): 20-40. Reprinted in the Supplement to *Meaning and Necessity: A Study in Semantics and Modal Logic*, enlarged edition (University of Chicago Press, 1956).

W.V.O Quine, "On what there is", *Review of Metaphysics* (1948). Reprinted in 1953 *From a Logical Point of View*. Harvard University Press. Revised and reprinted later

***While studying for this portion for this portion of the exam, students are encouraged to consult Dr. Bo Mou and Dr. Rebecca Chan for guidance, clarification on texts, and any other questions on the readings that may arise. Notice that in most cases, you are not expected to read the entire book.*