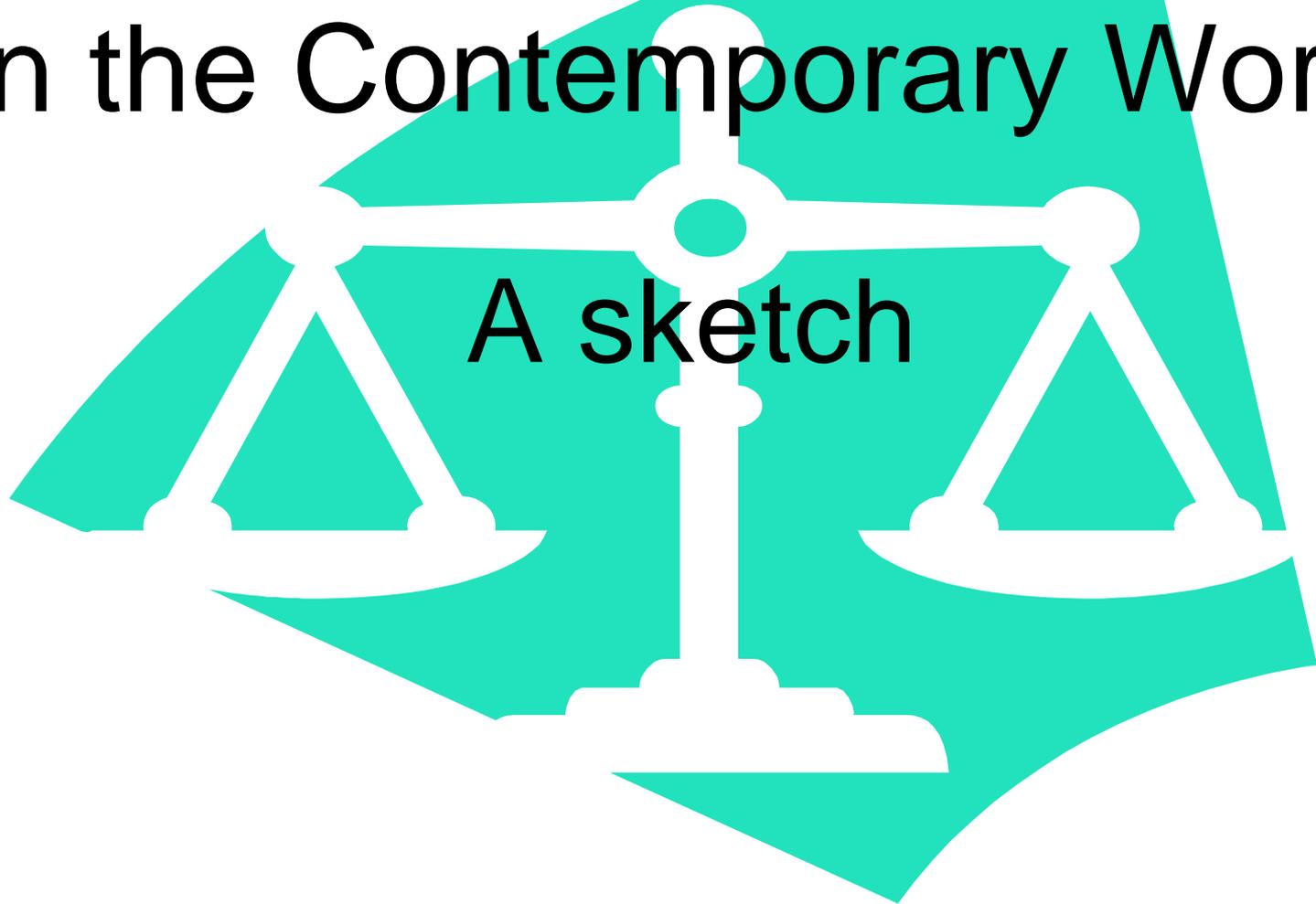


GE1109 Values and Justice in the Contemporary World

A sketch



* Please note that the information provided in this document is not meant to be a course syllabus.

A recent controversy in Hong Kong

- A transsexual (變性人), who was originally a woman, has been denied the right to get married with a woman.
- At the same time, if a transsexual (from man to woman) wants to get married with a woman, the law does not prohibit it.
- Is this fair or just?

Another controversy:



The Express Rail Link between HK and the Mainland

How important is economic development?

If some policies furthering economic development will bring disadvantage to some minority, what should be been?

How to balance economic growth with justice?

Values and Justice in the Contemporary World

- Values matter to human beings.
- Justice is of paramount importance in a unjust world.
- *This course allows you to discuss issues related to values and justice. It helps you to develop your own views and support them with rational arguments.*

There are five themes in this course:

- I. Decency and sexual morality
- II. Equality and political participation
- III. Discrimination
- IV. Justice and development
- V. Government, education and the good life

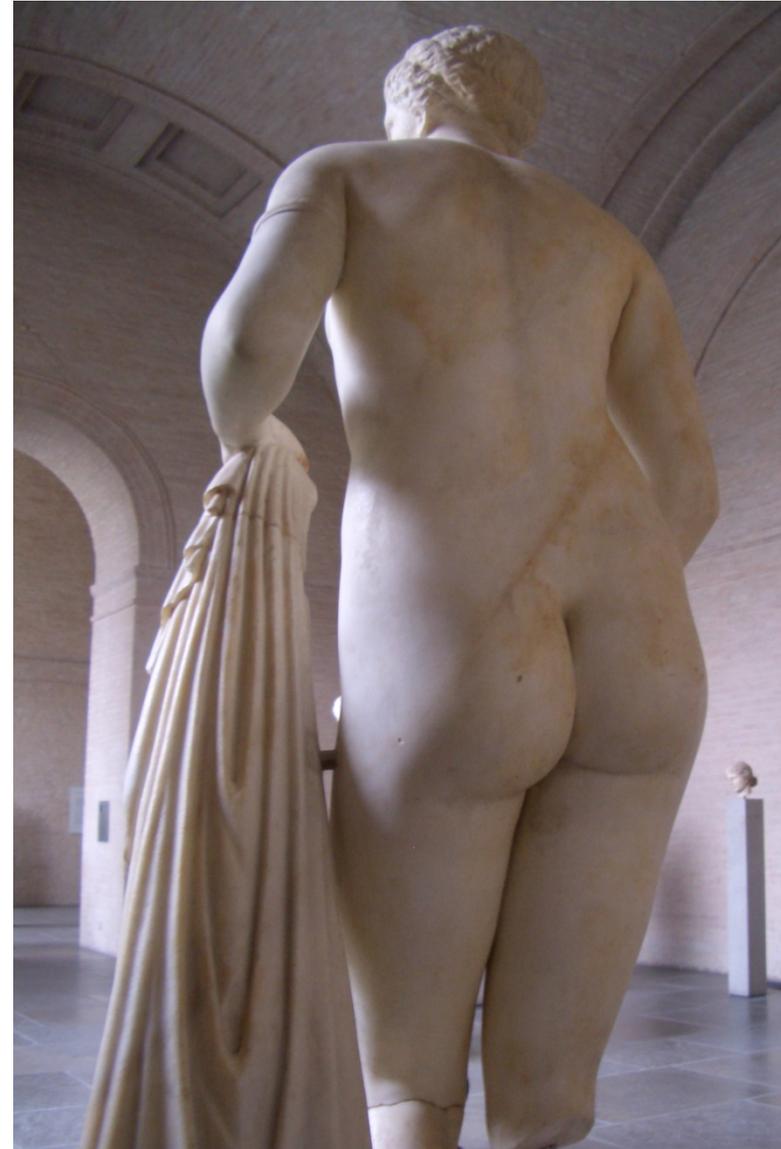
I. Decency and sexual morality:

- Is it morally right to engage in compensated dating (援交)?
- Can sex be a commodity?
- Is it right to have sex without love?



I. Decency and sexual morality

- What is pornography? Can we define what is pornographic?
- Is it morally acceptable to enjoy pornography?



II. Equality and political participation



- Why should people obey the government?

II. Equality and political participation

- Is civil disobedience (公民抗命) acceptable?



II. Equality and political participation



- What is democracy?
- What are the arguments for and against democracy?

III. Discrimination and the 'Other'

- Sexual discrimination: Is it discriminatory to expect women to have big breasts?
- Is it good for women to want to have big breasts? Why or why not?



III. Discrimination and the 'Other'



- Racial discrimination: What should be counted as a case of racial discrimination? What is a 'race' anyway?

III. Discrimination and the 'Other'

- Do animals have rights? Is it wrong to treat animals badly?



IV. Development and justice

- Economic development: How important is economic development? When there is a conflict between the need for economic development and other concerns, what should we do?

IV. Development and justice

- Trade, free trade and fair trade: What's wrong with free trade? What makes free trade differ from fair trade? Is free trade fair? Is fair trade something good?



IV. Development and justice

- Can the human body be used as a commodity?
 - Should human organ trade be allowed?
 - Is it ethical to hire surrogate mothers (代孕母)?



V. Government, education and the good life

- Should people have the right or freedom to decide whether to take drugs or not?
- Is it morally acceptable to conduct drug tests in schools?

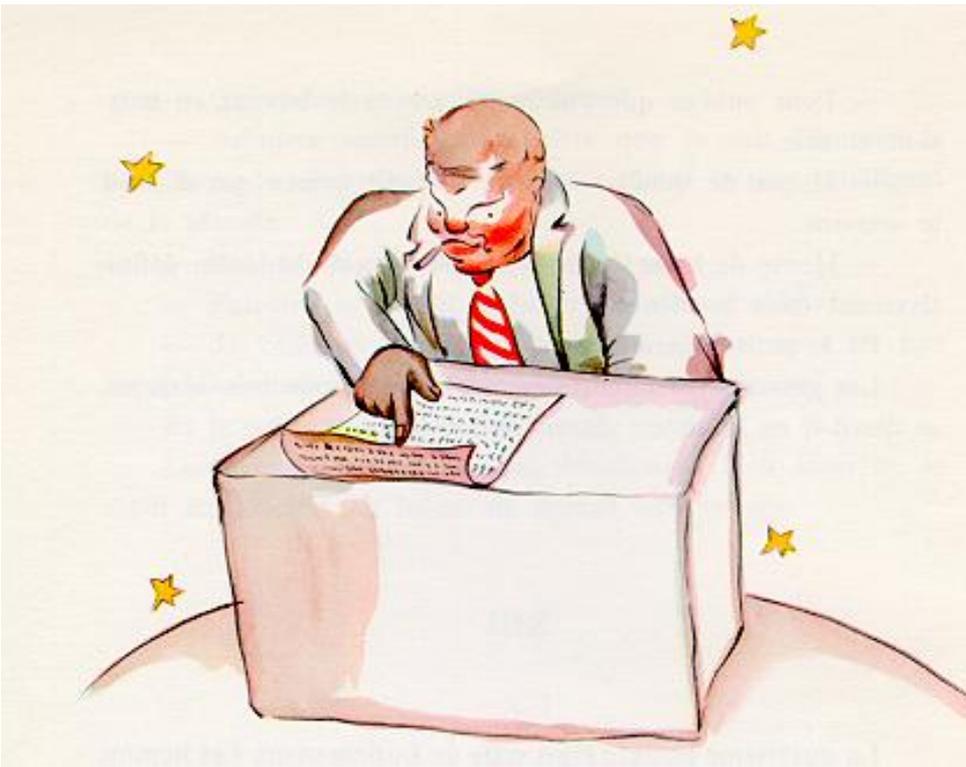


V. Government, education and the good life

- What should be the role of the government in relation to education?
- What is the point of education anyway?
- Should schools teach patriotism?



V. Government, education and the good life



- What is money?
- What should be the role of money in human life?

Teaching methods:

- This course requires you to make an effort to understand philosophical concepts and arguments. To memorize and reproduce what others have said serve no purpose here.
- A variety of teaching methods, including film-watching, in-class discussions and debates, will be used to offer students space to voice and test their own views.