Philosophy 120 / Spring 2027

COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY: Theory & Practice

Dr. Bo Mou
(bo.mou@sjsu.edu)

Wednesday 3:00pm-5:45pm

This course as given in Spring 2027 is an "advanced" introduction to comparative philosophy as *a general way of doing philosophy through cross-tradition engagement toward world philosophy*. It inquiries into how distinct approaches/resources from different philosophical traditions (understood broadly - distinguished culturally or by style/orientation/focus areas) can talk to and understand, engage with (rather than passing by) and learn from (rather than dismissing) each other and make joint contributions to the development of philosophy on a range of jointly concerned issues/topics.

This course consists of two closely related parts: (1) "theory" part: to examine some closely related fundamental theoretic and methodological issues on how cross-tradition engagement in philosophy is possible. (2) "practice" part: to analyze several representative sample cases of cross-tradition engagement of distinct approaches from some major philosophical traditions on a range of jointly concerned issues in metaphysics, philosophy of language, ethics, philosophical methodology, etc.

Prerequisite: 3 units of philosophy or upper division standing.

Texts:
- *Cross-Tradition Engagement in Philosophy: A Constructive-Engagement Account* by Bo Mou [Routledge, 2020 (2022 paperback), ISBN: 978-1032336466]
- Supplementary/background readings (to be posted at the class website)