**Content summary of 9th Classic Germany Philosophy Lecture**

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**Course Title： The Principle of Freedom;A Touchstone of Modernity**

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1.Three claims

Briefly speaking, the first part is the outline of this lecture,that is, both main questions for the talk to discuss and major claims are displayed here.

In detail,the important questions being discussed include:How important is the concept of freedom for Modernity? Which notion of freedom is central? If freedom is endangered, is Modernity thereby endangered, as well?

The three major claims are as follow:1)the concept of freedom is among the most important concepts for Modernity. 2) the self-endangerment of Modernity and of freedom doesn't serve as a pretext to abandon them. 3) In order for the concept of freedom as a touchstone,the concept should be examined seriously and completely. .

Eventually,four prevailing yet wrong opinions ,which either misunderstands freedom or are against taking freedom as a touchstone of Modernity,are criticized and corresponding reasons are also given:1) the optimistic view of freedom and the pessimistic ones.2)The value of freedom and the approval of freedom is decreasing. 3) the functional differentiation and various disempowerments of humans and so on.

2.Freedom:A Disturbing Concept

By analyzing Rousseau's famous proposition--"man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains"--some conclusions drawn from it are as follow:

⑴Freedom is no mere idea or an illusion, but a reality

⑵Freedom is a cross-cultural, inter-cultural and in fact universal concept.It thus did neither fall from heaven,nor was it invented or discovered in Modernity.

⑶Although human beings are born free, we see them being in chains everywhere,external chains as well as internal, psychological and even neutral science included.

⑷Freedom is a capability--a possibility lacking actuality in lots of regards.

⑸A total actualization of freedom can never be achieved for human beings.

⑹If we don't want to cut down the scope of debate in a proper way,then not only personal freedom,but also economic, social,political,scientific,and artistic freedom should be discussed.

⑺Freedom is a comparative notion.

⑻Not only personal freedom,but also in social and political freedom,There are forms of self-deceit and illusions.