

PSY 3780 Counselling Theories and Practice (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: PSY 2620 Psychology of Personality

The course provides orientation to counselling as a scientific study of helping relationship. It involves a survey of selected major theories of counselling and their applications. Special counselling areas and populations, and ethical considerations are included.

PSYC 1005 Principles of Psychology (3,2,1) (E)

This course introduces the basic concepts in psychology and serves as a foundation course in psychology. Major topics include biological and developmental processes, perception and consciousness, learning and thinking, motivation and emotion, personality and individuality, adjustment and mental health, and social behaviour. The basic elements of research methods in psychology and the major psychological approaches to the study of behaviour are also discussed.

PSYC 2005 Abnormal Psychology (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: PSYC 1005 Principles of Psychology

This course provides a survey of mental disorders in terms of the emotional, psychological, and cultural constellation of the person. It involves a survey of various mental disorders: anxiety, mood, delusional, developmental and personality. Topics include suicide, schizophrenia and mental retardation. Legal and ethical issues in treatment and therapy are examined.

PSYC 2006 Developmental Psychology (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: PSYC 1005 Principles of Psychology

This course is mainly concerned with understanding the different aspects of psychological development such as physical, perceptual, language, cognitive, emotional, social and moral development. It covers developmental changes from conception to old age including death and dying. Current research on the psychological development of Chinese people will be introduced.

PSYC 2007 Psychology of Personality (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: PSYC 1005 Principles of Psychology

This course aims at stimulating students' thinking in current issues and controversies in the scientific study of personality. It involves a survey of various theoretical approaches to personality: the psychodynamic, behavioural, humanistic, trait, and information-processing. Topics include personality development, personality dynamics and personality assessment. Current research on the personality of Chinese people will be introduced.

PSYC 2015 Psychology of Work (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: PSYC 1005 Principles of Psychology

This course provides students with the basic concepts in psychology that are essential to the study and understanding of work-related behaviour, facilitating interpersonal communication, coping with work-stress, and managing group decision, and leadership.

PSYC 2016 Social Psychology (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: PSYC 1005 Principles of Psychology

This course is chiefly concerned with understanding the character of the influences of relationships, small groups, and the larger institutions of society. Topics include interpersonal attraction, discrimination, aggression, conformity, group processes and leadership, development of opinions and attitudes, and prosocial behaviour in terms of the thought and feelings of the individual involved. The personal and societal applications of social psychology are examined.

PSYC 3005 Counselling Theories and Practice (3,2,1) (tbc)

Prerequisite: PSYC 2007 Psychology of Personality

The course provides orientation to counselling as a scientific study of helping relationship. It involves a survey of selected major theories of counselling and their applications. Special counselling areas and populations, and ethical considerations are included.

REL 1220 Religious Rituals and Practices in Hong Kong (3,2,1) (C)

This course aims to provide an understanding of rituals and practices of various religious traditions in Hong Kong, their social and cultural significance for the local population. The course will focus on three areas: (1) Chinese religions, including Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and popular religion; (2) Christianity, including Catholicism and Protestantism; (3) religious minorities, such as Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Zoroastrianism.

REL 1240 Buddhism (3,2,1) (C)

This is an introductory study of Buddhism, giving a comprehensive view of the historical development and fundamental ideas of Buddhism. While the course puts emphasis on the philosophy of the major schools of Buddhism, it also will give attention to their religious practices.

REL 1260 Approaches to the Study of Religion (3,2,1) (E)

This course gives the student an introduction to different approaches to the study of religion—the internal approach that includes textual, hermeneutical and theological studies; the different perspectival approaches, namely, the anthropological, psychological, philosophical, sociological, and religious dialogue that looks at religion and quasi-religions from different angles. The course will consider a number of examples in which the combinations of these approaches, interacting with one another, help students understand what is happening in typical religious acts.

REL 1270 Problems of Philosophy (3,2,1) (E/C)

This course aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to the basic issues and problems of philosophy in both the western and Chinese philosophical traditions. The focus will be directed on various philosophical concepts, problems and attempted solutions, as well as the methodological issues in philosophy, including, where possible, classical and contemporary, Eastern and Western approaches. It is hoped that students will be helped not only to acquire basic knowledge of philosophy, but also to develop their own reflective and critical attitudes and the analytical ability to tackle issues in philosophy.

REL 1280 Introduction to Christianity and Civilizations (3,2,1) (E/C)

This course is an introductory survey of some vast influences that Christianity has had on Western as well as Chinese civilizations. Both its successes and failures will be scrutinized. Topics to be discussed include higher learning, art, modern science, politics, society, war, cross-cultural exchange, etc. It also provides an overview of the major phases of development of Western Christianity.

REL 1290 Quest for Truth and Meaning (3,2,1) (E/C)

This is an introductory course in philosophy and religious studies for students with no background knowledge. It begins by assisting students to discover the quests for truth and meaning in popular culture. After introducing some basic critical thinking skills, this course guides students to explore and appreciate the multiple relationships between philosophy, religious studies and various dimensions of human existence—individual life, society and civilization. Students will experience the joy and excitement of studying philosophy and religious studies.

REL 2240 History of Christian Thought (3,2,1) (E)

This course is a study of major theological issues that have emerged in the history of the Christian Church. Focus will be given to epistemological and soteriological issues, together with other contextual problems, faced by theologians of each period who struggled to relate Christian faith to their life-situations.

REL 2250 Hermeneutics (3,2,1) (E)

An introduction to the art and science of interpretation. The course examines various contemporary and historically significant theories of interpretation, together with their philosophical assumptions. Students will be equipped with practical principles and guidelines for reading, understanding, and criticizing biblical and other texts. Special attention will be given to applying such principles to the interpretation of symbols, metaphors, myths, and other types of religious language. Examples will be drawn from the Bible and other specifically religious and/or philosophical texts.

REL 2310 Islam (3,2,1) (E)

This course seeks to pursue a historical study of Islamic doctrines, religious practices and institutions. Emphasis is placed on understanding the nature and teachings in the Qur'an, the sacred traditions (*hadith*), and some of their representative interpretations in medieval and modern settings.

REL 2320 Meaning and Knowledge (3,2,1) (E/C)

This course focuses on methodological problems in relation to the philosophy of language and epistemology. It also will give attention to the issues, problems or ideas in the philosophy of language and epistemology that are most relevant to understanding the major world faiths and religious traditions.

REL 2330 Morality and Society (3,2,1) (E/C)

The course focuses on the philosophical views concerning morality and society and their implications for thinking critically about the moral and socio-political dimensions of various philosophical or religious traditions. It will give attention to the philosophical theories or ideas that have important bearings on how we should go about answering the fundamental questions in moral and socio-political philosophy such as "How should we live?", "What do we owe to other people?", "Do we have good reason to believe that judgments of value are capable of being true or false?", "What rights and liberties should people have?", and "What rule or principle should govern the distribution of goods within society?".

REL 2340 Existence and Reality (3,2,1) (E)

This course investigates the different ways religious traditions conceive of and explain problems which relate finite life to transcendent realms. Philosophical methods in approaching issues related to existence and reality will be explained, so that students can proceed to explore both exegetically and critically differing religious accounts of the relationship between existence and reality.

REL 2350 Philosophical Issues in Chinese Religion (3,2,1) (C)

This course aims to introduce and investigate various philosophical issues in Chinese religion. The arguments for and against certain philosophical theses related to Chinese religion will be explained. Two or more traditions of Chinese religion will be explored at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be encouraged to arrive at their own judgments on, or views of, certain conceptions and doctrines of Chinese religion in a critical and rational manner.

REL 2360 Existentialism and Nihilism (3,2,1) (tbc)

The course is a study of the existentialists' quest for understanding human life and existence, with a focus on the issue of nihilism, i.e. the death of God and the denial of ultimate value and absolute truth. It begins with an introduction to the philosophical movement of existentialism: its historical background and its distinctive features in contrast with other kinds of philosophy. The central problematic of nihilism is introduced by a discussion of Nietzsche's thought. Then the thought of the major atheistic and theistic existentialists will be explored with a special emphasis on their response to the challenge of nihilism. Finally, the existentialists' major insights about the meaning of human existence will be systematically explored and critically assessed.

REL 2410 A Survey of Jewish and Christian Scriptures (3,2,1) (E)

This beginning course of biblical study investigates the background, growth, contents, and messages of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures and the history from which they emerged. It introduces the results of modern biblical scholarship and its contribution to our understanding of the Bible. The situation, form, content, and message of a biblical text (or book) is studied as an integrated whole in order to arrive at a balanced understanding of the meaning of the text (or book). Attention is paid to the unity and diversity of different representations of various traditions, and the religious ideas behind them. The procedure of exegesis and the use of the pertinent tools are introduced.

REL 2420 Biblical Theology and Moral Life (3,2,1) (E)

This course focuses on (1) the moral teachings of the Jewish and Christian traditions and (2) issues, problems or ideas in moral and socio-political theology that are highly relevant to understanding these religious traditions.

REL 2430 Contemporary Theology and the Public World (3,2,1) (E)

This course gives a broad view of the emergence, development and interactions of major Christian thought since early twentieth century. The impact of the Enlightenment and the critical issues raised since then will be discussed. Fundamental ideas and main themes of selected contemporary Christian thinkers and related theological movements will be examined. Emphasis will be given to the contextual problems faced by the theologians who struggled to relate Christian faith to their life-situations and the relevance of creative and constructive theological insights to critical issues in the public world.

REL 2610 Christian Spirituality (3,2,1) (E)

This course aims at providing an introduction to the historical, intellectual as well as the experiential dimensions of the spiritual heritage of the Christian faith. The course will be complemented by a critical evaluation of some of the major conceptual components of the discipline of Christian spirituality.

REL 2720 Daoist Religion (3,2,1) (P)

This course aims to offer a comparative examination of Eastern (with an emphasis on Chinese Philosophy) and Western philosophies from a macroscopic point of view. The focus will be directed on the principal ideas advanced and the modes of thinking employed. Similarities as well as differences between Eastern and Western philosophies will be explored and discussed. Religious implications where relevant to the thoughts and theories concerned will be emphasized.

REL 2730 Contemporary Ethical Problems (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course will tackle three or more clusters of ethical issues that are especially relevant to Hong Kong society. Ethical issues in birth, death, sex and love will be discussed here because of public concern lately. Some other issues will be included when deemed necessary.

REL 2750 Christian Social Thought (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course examines the various theological tendencies within the Christian Church in regard to their understanding of Christian responsibility to society and culture, and of the forms of social action in response to the needs in society.

REL 2760 Major Streams in Chinese Philosophy (3,2,1) (C)

This course introduces the origin and development of major philosophical themes in the traditional schools of Chinese philosophy and religion such as Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and Mohism. While providing a survey of the history and interrelationships between main streams of Chinese thought from before Confucius and stretching up to the modern period, the course also presents to students some critical assessments of these trends. In the course of discussions some attention will also

be given to sub-traditions such as the teachings of Gongsun Long and Hui Shi, as well as some of the new doctrines developed by Neo-Daoists, Chinese Buddhists and Neo-Confucians, and the criticisms raised by some modern Chinese philosophers. By this means students will be provided with broad historical accounts to the background and development of the problems addressed in various Chinese philosophical and religious traditions.

REL 3210 Philosophy of Religion (3,2,1) (E)

The course explores a whole range of philosophical problems related to religion, including issues such as proofs for the existence of God, the problem of evil, the intelligibility of religious language, the rationality of religious belief, the relationship between religion and morality, and the significance of religious experience. A selection of influential philosophers will be studied in depth, and students will be encouraged to compare and contrast their various approaches. This is an advanced course; students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

REL 3220 Comparative Religious Themes (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course attempts to provide students with a historically and culturally contextualized empathetic understanding of the world's major living religions by examining the relationships between these religious worldviews and their teachings on personal and social life. It also aims at finding out the prospects for obtaining universal, cross-cultural values in a religiously pluralistic world. Furthermore, it tries to draw on the ancient spiritual resources and various religious wisdom to address the urgent contemporary issues confronting humankind. This is an advanced course. Students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

REL 3230 Christianity and Chinese Culture (3,2,1) (C)

The course utilizes a comparative and interdisciplinary approach to provide a solid platform for the mutual reflections both on the Christian faith in its Western form, as well as on Chinese culture in its current modernization and rejuvenation. Special attention would be paid to Chinese Christian thinkers who have tried to address the cultural dilemmas that arose from their conversion to Christianity, or to non-Christian Chinese thinkers who felt a special need to address the cultural challenge from Western Christianity.

REL 3240 Religion and Modern Society (3,2,1) (tbc)

The course begins with an introduction on classical thinking concerned with the role of religion in society. It then examines the deeper problems of religions raised in the process of modernization/Westernization of society. It explores the religious situations of several typical societies, namely, that of a modernizing non-Western society, that of a modernized non-Western one, and that of a post-modern Western society. Students are invited to reflect existentially with participant observation on the religious situation of his/her own society. This is an advanced course; students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

REL 3260 Chinese Christianity (3,2,1) (C)

This is a study of the missions of the Syriac/Persian (Nestorian), Roman Catholic, Protestant and Russian Orthodox churches in China and their reception among different Chinese societies. The course will begin with a focus on the historical development of different forms of Christianity during the imperial era in China from the Tang to the Qing dynasty. Substantial questions will address cultural and theological issues which have emerged through the modern encounter of Roman Catholic and Protestant expressions of Christianity during modern times. These will include the adaptations required by them in post revolutionary periods of the 20th century China as well as current and long-term problems being faced in the broader realms of cultural China.

REL 3270 Mysticism and Religious Experience (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course examines the standard philosophical problems relating to the nature and interpretation of experiences that lead a person to believe he or she has come into contact with a "transcendent reality" (e.g. God). Special emphasis will be given to thinkers who have developed world views that centre upon such religious or "mystical" experiences.

REL 3410 Theology and Sex in Chinese Societies (3,2,1) (C)

This course introduces students to Christian theology of sex by focusing on the integral relation between sexuality and humanity. It studies the changing sex culture in the last few decades in the west and subsequent movements in contemporary Chinese societies. It explores the underlying ideologies and their impact. It introduces Christian theology of sexuality from biblical, historical and theological perspectives. The values of contemporary sex culture and the Christian tradition are compared and evaluated in light of the problems, tensions and challenges arising from selected various issues in contemporary Chinese societies. These issues include pornography and prostitution, marriage and family, procreation and reproductive technologies, gender and homosexual relations, etc. The relevance of Christian values in public life and postmodern society will also be explored.

REL 3420 Christianity, Modern Science and the Environment (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course is mainly a study of the complex interplay between science and the Christian religion. Some emphasis will also be placed on issues concerned with the meaning of life and the environmental problems. It begins with an invitation to the perennial problems of truth and meaning in science and religion. Different models of the interaction between religion and science will be explored. Then we will discuss whether modern science and the Christian religion are compatible in several major areas: biology, physics and methodology. Important cases of conflict will also be analysed in their historical contexts.

REL 3591-2 Honours Project (3,*,*) (tbc)

A project for BA (Hons) in Religious Studies students. Students will pursue in-depth research on a specific topic of interest to the student under guidance of an appointed lecturer from the Department of Religion and Philosophy. Students are to consult with their advisers regarding the necessary library and archival research, synthesis and writing. This project will be open only to Year III Honours Degree students.

REL 3610 Comparative Philosophy: East and West (3,2,1) (E)

This course aims to offer a comparative examination of Eastern (with an emphasis on Chinese philosophy) and Western philosophies from a macroscopic point of view. The focus will be directed on the principal ideas advanced and the modes of thinking employed. Similarities as well as differences between Eastern and Western philosophies will be explored and discussed. Religious implications where relevant to the thoughts and theories concerned will be emphasized.

REL 3620 Selected Topics/Readings in Philosophy (3,2,1) (E/C)

This course will study a selection of classical literature from the main streams of Chinese philosophy, especially those concerned with Confucianism, Daoism and/or Chinese Buddhism. The course will focus upon specific texts selected from the areas (e.g. Daoism). In studying the selected texts, emphasis will be given to the examination of the philosophical ideas and problems related to the texts. This is an advanced course. Students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

REL 3630 Selected Topics/Readings in Christian Studies (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course is a study of primary texts of major theological thinkers and/or ecclesiastical documents. The texts to be studied in detail may cover one or more periods of history (e.g. the Patristic Period, the Middle Ages, the Reformation or the Post-Enlightenment Period), or focus on one or more theologians or themes. This is an advanced course. Students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

REL 3770 Religion and Ideology (3,2,1) (E)

This course introduces students to the concept of ideology and its significance for the understanding of religion in the modern world. Through the particular example of Marxist critique of religion as ideology, the classical formulation of the concept of ideology is introduced. The validity and nature of this critique will then be considered. Religion's response to the critique will then be examined. Religion's critique of ideology as quasi-religion will also be discussed. Various modern ideologies will then be surveyed and their inherent strength and weakness will be set out in contrast with traditional religions. This is an advanced course. Students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

REL 3780 Religions in Northwestern China (3,2,1) (P) Today

This course, which is supplemented by a summer study tour, enables students to explore the various religious traditions in contemporary mainland China. Its specific focus is on religious diversity in the northwestern part of China. The primary way this is done is to begin with a general understanding of Chinese religions including Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Islam, Protestant and Catholic Christianity, and "Popular Religion". Particular attention will be paid to sociological and ethnographic issues in northwestern China such as religion and secularization, ethnicity and modernity.

REL 3990 Selected Topics/Readings in Religious Studies Today (3,2,1) (E/C)

The precise content of the course will be determined on the basis of (1) the needs of the students, (2) availability of faculty, and (3) consultation between the teaching faculty and Head of Department. This is an advanced course. Students without adequate background should consult the course instructor before enrolment.

REL 7010 Graduate Seminar (3,3,0)

Each graduate student will be required to present and defend at least one research paper during the semester. The teacher(s) may also present lectures and/or lead discussions on topics relevant to the students' research topics. The exact course description, outline content, assessment, teaching methods/approach to learning, and references for this course will depend on the following factors: (1) the number of graduate students enrolled in the seminar; (2) the nature of their topics; and (3) the specialization(s) of the teacher (or teachers, if it is team-taught).

REL 7020 Selected Masterpieces in Philosophy (3,3,0)

An in-depth study of selected seminal work(s) of philosophy. The course aims at enabling the students to appreciate the historical significance of the work, to understand its role in the philosophical tradition, to critically assess its major ideas and arguments, and to explore its relevance to the contemporary world. The instructor(s) of this course will set the pace, present lectures when deemed necessary, design the topics for discussions and guide the students to write their reports. Reports will be presented in seminars while the instructor(s) and other students act as discussants.

REL 7030 Selected Masterpieces in Christian Religion (3,3,0)

An in-depth study of selected seminal work(s) of Christian theology. The course aims at enabling the students to appreciate the historical significance of the work, to understand its role in the Christian tradition, to critically assess its major ideas and

arguments, and to explore its relevance to the contemporary world. The instructor(s) of this course will set the pace, present lectures when deemed necessary, design the topics for discussions and guide the students to write their reports. Reports will be presented in seminars while the instructor(s) and other students act as discussants.

REL 7040 Selected Masterpieces in Chinese Religions (3,3,0)

An in-depth study of selected seminal work(s) in Chinese religions (e.g. Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism). The course aims at enabling the students to appreciate the historical significance of the work, to understand its role in the Chinese culture, to critically assess its major ideas and arguments, and to explore its relevance to the contemporary world. The instructor(s) of this course will set the pace, present lectures when deemed necessary, design the topics for discussions and guide the students to write their reports. Reports will be presented in seminars while the instructor(s) and other students act as discussants.

REL 7050 Comparative Study of Religious Masterpieces (3,3,0)

An in-depth comparative study of a selected seminal work of Christian theology and a selected seminal work in Chinese religions (e.g. Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism). Besides enabling the students to appreciate the historical significance of the works, to understand their roles in their religious traditions, to critically assess their major ideas and arguments, and to explore their relevance to the contemporary world, the course also aims at a comparative study of the themes, modes of thinking, symbols, etc. in these works from diverse religious traditions. The instructor(s) of this course will set the pace, present lectures when deemed necessary, design the topics for discussions and guide the students to write their reports. Reports will be presented in seminars while the instructor(s) and other students act as discussants.

REL 7060 Advanced Required Readings (3,*,*)

This course aims to (1) provide a tailor-made and guided reading programme for research postgraduate students in specific areas of religious studies or philosophy, and (2) induce students to acquire in-depth understanding of their research area and related disciplines. The supervisor and the student are required to work out a reading list to cover the topics pertaining to the student's research area. The approved list will be submitted to the department for record. The student might have to submit one or more reading reports as seen fit by the supervisor.

RELI 1005 Quest For Truth and Meaning (3,2,1) (E/C)

This is an introductory course in philosophy and religious studies for students with no background knowledge. It begins by assisting students to discover the quests for truth and meaning in popular culture. After introducing some basic critical thinking skills, this course guides students to explore and appreciate the multiple relationships between philosophy, religious studies and various dimensions of human existence—individual life, society, and civilization. Students will experience the joy and excitement of studying philosophy and religious studies.

RELI 2005 History of Christian Thought (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) provide students with systematic understanding of the history of Christian thought; and (2) enable students to appreciate the development of the Christian intellectual tradition.

RELI 2006 Introduction to Christianity and Civilizations (3,2,1) (tbc)

This course aims to (1) introduce the Christian religion holistically to beginners by exploring the richness and diversity of the Christian traditions; and (2) conduct an impartial examination of some multi-faceted impacts, positive and negative, of Christianity upon the Western and Chinese civilizations.