Course Descriptions

GDAR 1005 中國俠義精神與現代世界 (3,2,1) (C)
Chinese Knight-errant Heroism and the Modern World
The course will explore an important aspect in Chinese culture and society through readings and discussions of literary works on knight-errant heroism (俠義精神). It will guide students to investigate the origin and development of knight-errant heroism through the reading of representative literature. Students will also study the concept from philosophical, social, and literar perspectives, with emphases on the sense of moral responsibility (當仁不讓, 見義勇為), the use of un-authorized force (taking law into one's own hands), and the manly tragic aesthetics. Its relevance in modern society and its contrast with the regard of rule by law will also be discussed.

GDAR 1006 中國文學與大眾文化 (3,2,1) (P)
Life Style, Chinese Literature, Mass Culture
本科探討建築、飲食、電影、服飾等大眾文化類型在具體文學文本中的呈現，大眾文化與思想文學的書寫，以及大眾文化與文學之間的關係對人們的生活方式所造成的影響。

The course will investigate (1) how mass culture—e.g. architecture, food, movies, clothing—are represented in literature; (2) how mass culture influences literary writing; and (3) how the relationship of literature and mass culture makes an impact on our life style.

GDAR 1007 嶽家文化與旅遊文學——韓劇的啟示（3,2,1）
韓劇的啟示
The Review and Outlook of Confucian Culture

This course will study the adaptation and transformation of Confucian culture in an Asian country undergoing modernization. Korean television dramas of various themes, such as historical heroes, love stories and family affairs will be used. Through analysing the behaviour and thinking patterns of modern and ancient characters in the drama, the course will examine the significance of Confucian culture in Korea and whereby draw comparison between Korean Confucian culture and that in the original Confucian classics.

GDAR 1015 世界文化遺產與中國旅遊文學 (3,2,1) (C)
Understanding Chinese Literature through World Cultural Heritage in China

This course aims to deepen students' understanding of a facet of Chinese civilization, namely the relationship between humans and nature in Chinese literature. Through the reading of selected writings in the genre of Chinese travel literature, students will be exposed to the beauty of landscapes. The course contains six topics, each covering one scenic site on which writers of the past composed their literary works in the genres of poetry and prose. These works will be discussed in conjunction with relevant information on the locale in question, such as its history, terrain, religions, science, architecture, and local customs, as well as its local artwork, such as calligraphy, sculptures, and gardens.

GDAR 1016 Aesthetics, Youth, Action (3,3,0) (E)
This course sensitizes students to the kaleidoscopic world of youth with particular reference to how youth culture is manifest in literary and linguistic expressions. This course is theme-driven (e.g. Youth Identity, Love, Sex, Drugs, Aspirations). And the choice of topics within each theme would be flexible, depending on the interests of the class.

GDAR 1017 Improvisation Comedy for Better Linguistic Awareness (3,3,0)

This course will study the most fundamental concepts of linguistics with which students may more effectively manipulate to achieve humour. The kind of humour intended here focuses on theatrical comedy typical of Improv and Standup. The point is to train students in the ability to take different perspectives of any information presented to them and communicate those perspectives. Use of theatrical comedy provides training for students to take fresh perspectives of life and culture through role playing and keen observation. This also has the added effect of equipping students with a set of theatrical and presentation skills unique to comedy.

GDAR 1025 Love Stories and Romance Movies (3,3,0) (E)
“Love Stories and Romance Movies” critically examines a variety of love discourses in print and visual forms, and helps students understand the emotional, physical, historical, political, and ideological dimensions of love. This course studies different love styles, and love in all of its (feudalistic, romantic, modern, and postmodern) forms, placing special emphasis on gender, ethical, and cross-cultural issues in love relationships. Topics covered may include love-shyness, limerence, friendship, companionate love, passionate love, obsession, unrequited love, lujus, pragma, marriage, betrayal, sexual abuse, divorce and death.

GDAR 1026 Food and Humanities (3,2,1) (E)

This course discusses the impacts of food in Humanities by exploring the nature of human drinking and eating through philosophical, anthropological, cultural and socio-psychological discourses. It adopts an interdisciplinary approach by introducing representing theories of the subject, both classical and contemporary. The discussion starts from anthropological findings of human food consumption in various religions and cultures. It then introduces specific topics which reflect on the relation of food consumption and gender construction, cultural identities and politics, art and media representation, etc., and finally reviews eating as a cultural phenomenon in local context.

GDAR 1027 Gender and Culture (3,2,1)

The course will take an interdisciplinary and multimedia approach to examine gender constructions socially, culturally and historically in literature, film, internet, visual art, and other popular cultural forms, with concrete analyses of examples from Chinese communities and other parts of the world. Using the perspectives of contemporary gender studies including feminist scholarship, gay-lesbian analytical tools, critical theory and psychoanalysis, this course will focus on the constructed nature of gender roles, the effects of these constructions on the lives of different gender identities, and the possibilities for change and individual empowerment that a critical awareness can create.

GDAR 1035 Love and Culture (3,2,1)

The course aims to help student understand and analyse the major factors affecting the cultural construction of love and sex via discussion of exemplary works in both Western and Chinese cultures, and engage them in critical attitudes toward current issues on love and sex arising in the local context of Hong Kong. It will review the ideas and representations of love, sex and erosicism as cultural phenomena in Western and Chinese cultures, bringing in some representing philosophical, social and cultural perspectives of the subject.

GDAR 1036 Being a Communicatively Effective Language Learner and User (3,2,1)

In this course, students will be exposed to the new targets and attitudes of language learning and language use. The contemporary theoretical concepts (i.e. ethnography of learning, communication and learners, communicative competence) will be illustrated by examples taken from social, academic and workplace face-to-face and online contexts. To consolidate learning and language use, students will have to apply the new theoretical concepts to critically evaluate the ways in which English is used effectively, with particular reference to interpersonal/intercultural experiences. They will also have to record, comment and reflect
on the use of English in various settings and interaction modes as ethnographers while they are studying the course.

GDAR 1037 English in the World Today (3,2,1) (E)
This course will help students better understand different varieties of English as spoken by people around the world (e.g. Singapore, Australia, North America). Through analysing the socio-cultural and linguistic features of various varieties of English, students will be a better educated and more versatile user of the English language.

GDAR 1045 Current Events (3,3,0) (E)
In this course, students will get extensive opportunities to discuss and write about (after reading and listening) current issues in every sphere, both local and worldwide, and in the process improve their critical thinking and argumentation, their independent learning and information literacy skills, and their awareness of engagement with important issues in the world today, as well as their competence in spoken and written English.

GDAR 1046 Experiencing and Exploring Music (3,3,0) (C)
In Hong Kong
This course will give student an opportunity to experience first hand and explore music in relation to its role in our society. In each of the three weeks devoted to one type of music in Hong Kong (traditional, popular, classical, theatrical), students are expected to (1) acquire knowledge in such type of music, including its brief history and its general musical characteristics; (2) reflect on the musical and aesthetical issues pertinent to the participated activity; and (3) relate the themed activity with current issues in Hong Kong's cultural scene.

GDAR 1047 Jazz, Blues and Broadway (3,3,0) (E)
This course introduces basic terminology and concepts necessary to develop critical music listening skills; and introduces a repertoire of the American popular music genres of jazz, blues, and musical theatre. It will teach students to examine the cultural and historical context of the music studied; and the interplay between societal and musical developments. The course is designed for both musicians and non-musicians.

GDAR 1055 Music in the Cinema (3,3,0) (E)
This course will introduce students to the history and aesthetics of music in the cinema, an everyday experience via TV and video presentations, and one which we take for granted. The subject will cover the origins of music as an adjunct to drama in different cultures; the proto-cinematic stage of Wagner; and proceed from the use of music in the so-called “silent cinema” through the introduction of recorded sound in the 1920s, to the development of fully synchronized sound and music scores in the 1930s, to the present day with avant-garde and experimental films. Students will acquire skills to identify and evaluate different types of music as expressive and symbolic elements in film, as well as an ability to think critically about cinematic music. Through the critical exploration of a plurimedial and interdisciplinary art form, students will engage with an enriched artistic experience of film. Previous academic study of music or film is not required.

GDAR 1056 Music of Our Lives: Understanding (3,3,0) (E)
and Enjoying the Musical Arts
The purpose of this course is three-fold. First, there is a fundamental focus on students becoming educated and active music listeners of Western and Asian music representative of a wide range of music literature primarily from 1850 to the present. Second, the course will emphasize the development of an understanding of musical characteristics and artistic elements reflective of music of Hong Kong, China, Europe, and Americas. Third, students will gain insights into the place and role of music in not only diverse cultural and historical contexts, but also examine how the students themselves use music in their lives.

GDAR 1057 Chinese Thoughts through Films (3,2,1) (C)
Chinese thought has immense influences over East Asia at large and is an invaluable treasure of human kind. The course will study the fundamental religious and ethical concepts of the Three Teachings (Sanjiao), Confucianism, Daoism and Chinese Buddhism, such as loyalty, filial duties, Dao, Sunyata (emptiness) and the like, which play important roles in shaping the East Asian mind. With this basic understanding, student will then understand Chinese history and culture. Films that represent and deal with these Chinese religious and philosophical ideas will be examined and discussed.

GDAR 1065 Critical Thinking (3,2,1) (C)
This course aims to provide a basic introduction to the methodological of critical thinking, in particular, the basic methodology of the following: the method of linguistic-conceptual analysis, the method of logic and scientific method. Special attention will be given to the basic concepts and principles of the methodology of the three areas of study of critical thinking aforementioned. The course, in particular, will show how to apply those concepts and principles to problem solving, the construction of sound arguments as well as the tackling of linguistic pitfalls and fallacies by using both daily life and academic examples.

GDAR 1066 Fantasy, Romance and Religious Quest (3,2,1) (E)
Through studying the narratives of the “high fantasy” genre, this course will address some of the most compelling issues in human life, such as the origin of mankind and the universe, the motion of reality, the existence of spirits, the seductiveness of human mind, the justification of God, and the conception of salvation. The course will also explore how traditional Chinese fantastic and romantic narratives—Daoist and Buddhist in particular—seek to answer similar questions with their respective religious beliefs and philosophical thoughts. Meanwhile, the course will examine how some fantasy narratives in the contemporary West—such as those by Le Guin and Wachowskis brothers—have been influenced by Daoism and Buddhism.

GDAR 1067 Introduction to Western Philosophy (3,2,1) (E)
This subject aims at providing an introduction to a selection of major philosophical issues in the western tradition. Emphasis will be placed on showing how these issues can be relevant to our modern day living. The views of representative philosophers on such issues will be introduced along with the lecturers and discussions. In addition, the course will stress the continuity between these philosophers and the connections between their respective solutions to the problems under consideration.

GDAR 1075 Magic, Demonic Power and Spiritual Quests in the Western Tradition (3,2,1)
In this course, students will be invited to trace the recent hype of magical/demonic stories as portrayed in media and in pop culture among young people back to their cultural and religious roots (only deal with the traditions in the West, namely, the Hebraic-Judaic religion as exemplified in the Old Testament, ancient Greek philosophies, Greco-Roman mythologies and Christianity). Students will examine the attraction of these magical/demonic powers in their reverse dimensions, i.e. the general human quest for identity, truth and meaning in spiritual dimensions. Lastly, students will be asked to compare and evaluate the views and answers offered by the major cultural and religious traditions in response to the quest for life's meaning and fulfillment.

GDAR 1076 Sex, Gender and Chinese Thought (3,2,1)
The course will address the central issues in the history of Chinese attitudes toward sex and gender, and explore how intellectual conceptions of sex and sexuality in China are constructed linguistically, philosophically, and religiously in the classical Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist texts. Emphasis will be given to gender-related issues such as womanhood and female virtues, foot-binding, and the epistemological status of bodily experience. The course will show how the complicated views on the interrelationship between sexual identity/corporeality
and spirituality in the ancient Chinese texts has both confirmed and defied traditional feminine-masculine dichotomy with their schematic representations of polarities and unity.

**GDAR 1077 Understanding Chinese Philosophy**
This course aims to introduce the major figures and schools in classical and modern Chinese philosophy. Major theses and issues in Confucianism, Daoist philosophy and Buddhist philosophy will be explained and discussed. The major concerns of Chinese philosophy in areas like metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics will be addressed, and the proposed solutions and theses to deal with those concerns will be presented and discussed. The development of modern Chinese philosophy will be surveyed. The relevance of Chinese philosophy to modern life will also be emphasized.

**GDAR 1085 Intercultural Theatre and Cultural Translation**
This course introduces the theatre to students which provides the best example for inquiry into the operation of language, body and space in the process of meaning-making. Students will discuss under guidance the culturally specific nature of various communication channels. They will also be introduced to major attempts in intercultural theatre by theatre makers including Antonin Artaud, Jerzy Grotowski, Eugenio Barba, Augusto Boal, Robert Wilson and Robert Lepage. Students will be encouraged to examine the works by these theatre makers from different disciplinary perspectives including language, translation and theatre studies, as well as a range of other perspectives. In the process they will be expected to acquire a range of transferable skills from theatre practice to daily communications.

**GDAR 1086 Interlingual Communication: English and Chinese**
This course is designed to help students develop an interlingual as well as intercultural awareness and competence in such communication. It trains students to identify and understand the differences and similarities between English and Chinese on linguistic and cultural levels. It deals with how language and cultural elements carry meaning across language-cultures, and how students may broaden their vision of the world of linguistic and cultural diversity from a contrastive perspective. Upon completing the course, students will be equipped with a general knowledge about English and Chinese in contrast and an overall readiness to appreciate linguistic and cultural diversity for better communication with other people.

**GDAR 1087 Ancient Chinese Medical Prose—Classical Chinese**
This course provides basic, fundamental training in reading Ancient Chinese Medical Prose focusing on relevant cultural background knowledge, bibliography, and the linguistic features including Chinese character, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, and semantics. Through intensive reading and topical discussion of ancient and pre-modern Chinese Medical Prose writings, students’ literacy in Chinese language and knowledge of traditional Chinese culture will be enhanced. The course also provides training in using multimedia resources for further study of the language and culture.

**GDAR 1805 Biototechnology, Altering Nature, and Being Human**
This course integrates knowledge in molecular biology and philosophy (including the religious perspectives). New biotechnology is a key part of the biological revolution in the 21st century, which makes news headlines from time to time. It includes assisted reproduction, genetic therapy, genetic engineering, cloning, and stem cell manipulation. It can modify our food and our environment, alter ourselves and our offspring. It offers high hopes and arouses deep fears at the same time. This course is divided into three parts. Part I: Biology—understanding the molecular biology behind the latest biotechnological advances (e.g. molecular cloning, stem cell, the Human Genome Project, regenerative medicine). Part II: From Biology to Philosophy—understanding the notions of “nature,” “altering nature,” improving nature, and “unnatural” from both the biological and philosophical perspectives. Part III: Philosophical Anthropology—exploring how we can set the moral guidelines so that, via biotechnological intervention of nature, human beings will neither play God nor play slave of nature, but just being human. This course begins with basic literacy in molecular biology and ends with the philosophical puzzle, “what is humanity?”

**GDAR 1806 Cityscapes: Hong Kong Neighbourhoods, Urban Voices, and Other Tales of the City**
This course will integrate the teaching of basic ethnographic techniques of Hong Kong city spaces with narratives and stories about Hong Kong written in English. Students will learn to gather contemporary (survey and other) data about the community they call home, in addition to situate their findings within a larger historical context of how Hong Kong has been represented in English literature in the more recent (colonial) past, as well as by Hong Kong artists and other writers expressing themselves using English today.

**GDAR 1815 God, Creation and the Evolving Cosmos**
This course will examine the current scientific views about the origins and the workings of the universe and explores their implications for contemporary interdisciplinary dialogue between science and religion, especially the beliefs concerning God, creation and the nature of the universe in the Christian tradition. Students will be introduced to the Christian concept of creation and the scientific concepts of Big Bang and other modern cosmologies.

**GDAR 1817 Religion's Role in the Development of City Space and City Life**
In this course, students will learn how religions act as the powerhouse of city development and city life in selected parts of the world. Students are led to recognize that, beside secular ideologies and economic, political, population and cultural ecologies, religions have always played a pivotal role in people's imagination and in the construction of city life and city space. Students would be invited to utilize concepts and methodologies learnt from the course to conduct value critique and ethical reflections on contemporary urban development.

**GDAR 1825 Religious Creativity and Visual Arts**
This course aims at exploring diverse religious traditions, beliefs and values through visual language of artworks. Investigating a variety of artworks including sculptures, paintings, manuscripts, architecture and interior designs, it encourages students to examine notions of good and evil, values and belief systems, relationship between human and divine world, and religious engagements and rituals. Integrating art and cultural history and religious thinking, this course considers artworks as visual agents of various religions that broaden the conventional realms of aesthetics and create profound religious experiences.

**GDAR 1827 Understanding East Asian Transformations through Films**
The course will examine the epochal transformations of East Asia as a whole region since the end of World War II. Its profound multidimensional transformations in economic, technological, political, social and cultural fields, as stimulating and powerful venues, will be discussed. Each important film selected for study would be an occasion for the students to learn the ideas input by the film artists who produced these films. The students would be led to appreciate the artistic expressions, the humanistic and ethical concern, and the joy and tears of professional and innovative filmmakers.
GDAR 1835 Music, Mind, and Human Experience (3,3,0) (E)
Is music a language? Is “Mozart Effect” a myth? Are we born to be creative? Is emotion processed on the right brain and reason on the left? In this course students will develop a critical knowledge of music and the human brain and how they are interrelated with other disciplines such as language, psychology, robotics, mathematics, and mental health.

GDAR 1837 When West Meets East: Modernity (3,3,0) (E) in the Arts
This course aims to extend students’ knowledge and experience beyond their major study by exploring the Modernist art forms in Western culture, including visual arts, music and literature. Modernity and its theories are culturally specific concepts, and are nonetheless relevant to social-cultural conditions of the twentieth-first century, the Modernist art forms derived a century ago are of artistic and scholarly value. By examining key concepts and works of arts, students of different major(s) will be able to understand the current world condition with references to what had happened and had been happening in the past. The case study on Chinoiserie, including visual arts and opera, invite students to look closer to modernity and cultural influence in varying perspectives. Opera, once a popular art form, invites fresh insight of students of the 21st century as well as spectatorship and directorship like Zhang Yi-mou. It is expected that the course would allow students to link the past to the present, and learn to recontextualize the existing art forms of Hong Kong and the Anglophone, as the former is often considered at the crossroads of East and West.

GDAR 1865 Service Leadership and Emotional Intelligence (3,2,1)
In order to become successful service leaders, our students can be well-prepared before they take up caring positions in the community. A successful leader must possess abilities to understand self and others, to inspire and build strong relationships and to respond effectively to the situations that one is engaged in. This course thus brings together two significant components of service leadership, namely leadership and emotional intelligence (EI) through the joint expertise of the Social Work Department and Counselling and Development Section, Office of Student Affairs. We believe that to prepare students to become mature, capable and competent service leaders, there are essential knowledge, attitudes and skills to be examined and learned in the areas of leadership and emotional intelligence, and to apply them to real life situations.

GDAR 1866 Music, Science, and the Sublime (3,2,1) (E)
The first half of the course will be devoted to an historical overview of the topic and establishing a commonality of key concepts and vocabulary for student of differing backgrounds. The second half of the course will comprise a series of more in-depth lectures, demonstrations and field trips on topics taken predominantly from the last 20 years, as well as topics germane to student’s interest and backgrounds, and the availability of guest lecturers on those topics. All students will have the opportunity of creating their own, scientifically inspired aesthetic objects of music, visual arts, poetry, graphics, and/or other art forms.

GDAR 1876 Psychology of Positive Living (3,3,0)
The course is intended to introduce students’ basic concepts and knowledge of psychology of positive living. It is concerned with the scientific study of different aspect of human functioning including behaviors, thoughts, emotions, learning and personality as well as factors that enable individuals to flourish and achieve positive living, with an aim to promoting students’ self-understanding, knowledge and potentials in positive emotions, resilience, creativity and character strengths. The course is composed of two parts: (1) introduction of basic concepts and knowledge of psychological study on human functioning; and (2) introduction of the key concepts and knowledge of positive psychology, with the joint expertise of the Social Work Department and Counseling and Development Section, Office of Student Affairs.

GDBU 1005 Accounting for Business Decisions (3,3,0) (E)
This course aims to provide an understanding of what accounting is, what it does, and where it fits into everyday experiences as students, consumers, investors or managers. This course introduces accounting from a user perspective, that is, considers accounting information from the view point of the people who will use the information when making decisions. Users may be, for example, individuals who want to know about the future cash flow implications of buying a home versus renting one; investors who need to assess the overall performance of a company from its financial statements, perhaps to decide whether to buy or sell shares; or managers who need a more detailed understanding of the costs and profits of the form’s products or activities. The basic accounting concepts will be introduced and the decision-oriented applications of accounting will be emphasized. Students from this course will have the ability to understand both financial and managerial accounting information and use them effectively to make better decisions in various business and non-business settings.

GDBU 1006 Financial Accounting: Information Generation and Use (3,3,0) (E)
Accounting has been known as the language of business. In today’s world, we all need to, to varying degrees, deal with accounting information in a wide range of business settings. For example, a potential investor needs accounting information to evaluate firm performance and select a stock for investment. A bank loan officer relies on accounting information to assess borrower’s financial condition and credit risk in making a lending decision. Employees of a business also need accounting information to assess whether the business will survive in the long run and continue to provide employment and pension benefits. As students, you may use accounting information to manage your cash, to evaluate a job opportunity, and to decide whether you can afford a new computer. Success in any business comes down to a thorough understanding of the language of business. This course is designed to help students understand the basics of financial accounting through exploring three questions: What is accounting information? How is it generated? How is it used? By focusing on both the generation of accounting information and the meaning behind these numbers, this course helps students understand the information of financial reports, become an informed user of accounting information and equips them with crucial decision-making skills in various business environment.

GDBU 1007 Law for Hong Kong Business (3,3,0) (E)
Besides the introduction of the legal systems and relevant laws in Hong Kong, this course offers a new and interesting way of learning about Hong Kong laws by emphasizing on discussion on Hong Kong cases selected and presented by the students on their research on the web and library. Therefore each session will be unique with different topics and content to be introduced and discussed by the students. After attending this course, the students will gain a general understanding of laws in Hong Kong and be able to do basic legal research on business laws in Hong Kong.

GDBU 1015 Management Accounting: A Tool for Planning and Control (3,3,0)
Management accounting is to help allocating money and other resources within an organization. Management accounting information is typically used by company executives for decisions about investments, plant closures, pricing, budgeting, and cost controls, etc. It is however equally useful for individuals in planning home purchases, household expenditure and holidays; and for the public administrators in their public resources allocation and control. The course aims to provide students with an overview of what management accounting information is about.