

To supplement classroom teaching, this course also adopts an experiential approach so that the students could be benefited from providing service to one or two partner institutions helping needy groups in the community. It is expected that through paying visits and offering services, the students can be benefited from these hands-on experience in various ways including reflection on life attitude, strengthening of caring motivation and enhancement of understanding of importance of providing service to the community.

<http://ge.hkbu.edu.hk/course/IGE-1926/>

GDSS 1927 From Responsible Citizenship to Service Leadership (IGE) (3,3,0) (E)

Citizenship is recognized as an important constituent for civil society and social development. This course aims to develop students' sense of citizenship and motivate them to influence the community with this spirit through service leadership. Sociological and ethical understanding of responsible citizenship will be explicated with theories and examples in Hong Kong. Through the analysis, the different elements of service and leadership competencies including knowledge, attitudes, values, awareness of service needs, skills, and communication will be introduced.

Service leadership and management reveal that a large part of our lives is spending in service to others. Good citizenship in society unavoidably will be achieved through service. This course aims to equip students with a sensitive awareness of service needs in the community and a good service leadership attitude in terms of good citizenship.

Experiential learning will be emphasized in this course. Besides lectures, real life scenarios will be used for group discussions and role-plays. Community/organization visits will be organized to give students an opportunity to identify the service needs and suggest viable service plans for meeting the needs. After further discussion and planning, students will do service in host organizations. The process of exploring service needs, planning activities, delivering the services according to plan, and an evaluation of the result of the services together with a reflection of one's attitude and motivation will give the students the first-hand experience of service leadership as responsible citizens. In this course, two values of good citizenship will be highlighted: integrity (anti-corruption) and fairness.

<http://ge.hkbu.edu.hk/course/IGE-1927/>

GDSS 1937 Improving Mental Health for University Success (IGE) (3,1,2) (C)

In order to maximize the learning and development for university students, it's essential for them to have effective coping skills and sufficient resilience capacity for stress management. This course is designed to help university students identify stressors experienced in their university life, understand stress process and responses and to better manage their challenges in university life by learning and applying skills of cognitive behavior intervention and adventure training.

This course will be jointly delivered by the Department of Social Work and Counseling and Development Centre, Office of Student Affairs. It consists of three parts. The first part is lectures on basic concepts of university adjustment and mental health of university students, theories of stress and coping, and theoretical framework and models of cognitive behavioral intervention. In the second part, students will be divided into 2-3 groups for skills workshops. A variety of cognitive behavioral skills will be introduced to students and demonstrate how to apply these skills to cope with their university stress. The skills workshop will be conducted in the form of stress management and coping skills training, demonstrations and skills practice. The third part is adventure-based activities, including a one-day camp of adventure training. In this part, various adventure-based activities will be conducted to enhance students' self-awareness and confidence. Briefing and debriefing will be included in each session to facilitate students' self-reflection and self-understanding. The second and third parts will be led by experienced counselors and a team of experienced adventure trainers.

This course is characterized by interactive and experiential learning experiences, integration of theory and application, teaching in a small group setting, and focus on applying the skills learned in class to cope with real life issues for students.

<http://ge.hkbu.edu.hk/course/IGE-1937/>

GEOG 1005 Geography and the Contemporary World (3,3,0) (E)

The course deals with the complex physical and cultural realities of the world. It adopts a topical approach, encompassing major issues in the contemporary world and studies these issues from a geographical perspective. It is designed in a manner that helps students to understand the varied and complex environmental interactions of the Earth. The course also assists students in recognizing the diverse ways in which geography can open new horizons and contribute to the building of an environmentally and culturally sustainable world.

GEOG 1130 Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Geography (3,2,1)

This course provides an introduction to statistical analysis of geographic data. Through real-world examples from various topic areas of geography, students learn sampling methods, descriptive and inferential statistical techniques for analysing geographic data. Topics include hypothesis testing, spatial statistics, statistical relationships between variables, and how to generate, summarize and present geographic data, etc. The course will facilitate students a knowledge basis for understanding more advanced methods of geographic analysis.

GEOG 1150 Cartography (3,2,2)

Cartography is the art, science and technology of making maps. The process of map-making often involves five steps, that is, selection of a number of features in the real world, classification of selected features into groups, simplification of jagged lines like coastlines, exaggeration of features that are too small to show at the scale of the map, and symbolization to present the different classes of features chosen. Understanding of this process and pursuit of the skills will greatly enhance the presentation of geographic information in graphic format. Moreover, this format can be an effective tool for data analysis such as examining the relationship between two distributions using simple transparent overlays. Students of geography can apply such a mapping ability to their natural or social science courses or in their professional fields. The course also aims to introduce basic concepts and application skills of using geographical information system (GIS) to input, manage, retrieve and display geographical information.

GEOG 1160 Cultures, Peoples and Landscapes (3,2,1)

This course examines the nature and development of cultural geography and landscape studies as major fields of studies in human geography. It explores the interactive relationship between culture, social organization, human action, landscape features and the variation of place characteristics over space. It focuses especially on (1) what by "culture" is meant, (2) how culture evolves, develops, diffuses and changes, and (3) how we shall explain and understand the interactive relationship between culture, society and place characteristics, especially within the dynamic and rapidly changing contexts of urban societies.

GEOG 1190 Earth Systems: Shaping Landscapes (3,2,1)

This course introduces geomorphology and demonstrates the main facets contributing to the scientific study of landforms. Emphases are placed on plate tectonic theory, that is used as a framework to explain the Earth's major relief features, their development and structure, and the associated landforms; and the processes of weathering, erosion and deposition with regard to landform development especially in Hong Kong.