GDCV 1896 Soundscape Studies and Hong Kong Culture (3,3,0) (E)

Soundscape Studies investigate the relation of an acoustic environment and the behavioral characteristics of humans living within it. They explore how people create, interpret and interact with sounds in everyday life. Doing so, soundscape studies link up artists, cultural studies researchers and anthropologists. This course aims at introducing this cross-disciplinary practice to students as a new trajectory to understand and reflect upon Hong Kong culture—through listening to its acoustic communities.

In this course, students will learn about the origins of soundscape studies, their theory and practices and in what ways they influence musicians, media artists and culture researchers. Also, they will ‘untangle’ relying on sight as their primary sense, and ‘relearn’ the ability of listening. To achieve this a major focus of the course is on students conducting site-specific fieldwork to explore the idea of acoustic communities and their specific soundmarks. This will familiarize students with ethnographic research approaches, and will help them to develop their own critical position on cultural and social issues.

The practices exercised throughout this course can subsequently be applied in various fields of studies including anthropology, sociology, communication and creative arts.

GDCV 1897 Creative Thinking (3,3,0) (E)

Creativity is considered as one of the most important “soft skills” needed for everyone in this ever-changing world. It is now recognized that creativity can be nurtured and developed. There are creative thinking techniques that are universal to problem solving and can be broadly applied across disciplines.

This course is working towards laying out a foundation for our students to develop a habit for creative thinking that will enable them to utilize later in their chosen discipline. It aims at raising students’ idea generation fluency, imagination capacity and risk taking parameters with the help of simple training. It also helps them recognize how one can develop creativity by shaping their attitude and overcoming the blocks.

The course start with introducing what is creativity, why creativity and then follow by how to be creative. This course takes student through the confluence view of creativity, the levels and style of creativity and the principles in creative problem solving. Students will develop their creativity through exercises of different creative thinking techniques and continuous self-reflection.

GDSC 1005 Environmental Principles and Contemporary Environmental Issues (3,3,0) (E)

This course intends to enhance students’ understanding on fundamental environmental principles and environmental ethical principles as well as to foster their critical thinking on environment-related issues. Specific issues covered in the course will include resources management, food safety, public health, sustainable development, ecotourism, nature conservation and ecological footprint. In order to better illustrate these core issues and their implications on policy making and application of ethical principles, relevant current environmental issues in Hong Kong, China and other countries will be cited as discussion examples.

GDSC 1006 You and Your Environment (3,3,0) (E)

This course aims to introduce to students the principles and issues of environmental science. The topics selected will demonstrate how human activities cause environmental problems and what concepts and technologies can be applied to solve these problems.

GDSC 1007 You and Your Health (3,3,0) (E)

This is an introductory course to students on the basics of human body and how factors from the living environment may affect our health. Topics chosen are closely related to health and diseases. Specific health problems and issues of interest will be selected for discussion.

GDSC 1015 Coffee with Prof—The Fascinating Science of Everyday Life (3,3,0) (E)

Designed for non-science majors, the course aims to demonstrate, through daily life examples, the many important contributions and relevance of science and technology in modern living. The course will start with discussion on myths and facts of coffee, physiological effect of caffeine, to organic farming, fair trade, globalization (coffee shop industry) and glocalization (invention of Yuenyeung [coffee with tea] at Hong Kong cafes). Connections between modern science inventions and individual’s healthy living styles (home/food/travel/shopping, etc.) will also be discussed. Controversial socio-scientific issues will be used to rectify students’ misconceptions in science concepts.

GDSC 1016 Ocean Voyage—Science in the Sea (3,3,0) (E)

The course is for students who are curious to learn about the ocean and its science, history and more. Students will be introduced the concepts of marine and environmental science, as well as cultural, economic and political impacts to address marine-environmental issues at local and regional scales.

GDSC 1017 Science and Technology Behind the Movies (3,2,1) (E)

This course will make use of examples from movies and TV drama episodes as motivations to introduce students to some key concepts and latest developments in science and technology which can make significant impacts (e.g. new opportunities and experience) on our future ways of life. It provides first an overview on key milestones in science and technology development, and their impacts on our daily life. The major portion of the course covers selected concepts and principles in science and technology to be presented under themes like human-like robots, genetic engineering, space travel, etc.

GDSC 1025 Discovering Our Universe (3,3,1) (E)

This course will provide non-science major students with basic scientific understanding and appreciation of the wonder of the universe. It introduces the students to the study of phenomena outside the confines of the Earth and also explores the relationship between humanity and the cosmos. Physical concepts in understanding the workings of the cosmos will be emphasized and illustrated with multimedia presentations and classroom demonstrations.

GDSC 1026 Nano Living: Impact of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (3,3,1) (E)

This course will popularize basic knowledge of nanoscience and nanotechnology, introduce an increasing range of pragmatic applications in daily life, establish critical consciousness of their social consequences (in environment, safety and human health), and prevent misleading.

GDSC 1027 Diseases and Medicine (3,3,0) (E)

This course teaches students to envisage the differential roles and approaches of Chinese medicine and Western medicine in the treatment of human diseases as well in the prevention of illnesses. Students can broaden the horizon in the knowledge of contemporary medical technology and the modernization of Chinese medicine, as well as general health awareness.

GDSC 1035 Health Maintenance and Food Therapy in Chinese Medicine (3,3,0) (P)

The aim of this course is to introduce the basic principles and philosophy of health maintenance and food therapy in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). Students will learn a variety of food therapy in TCM for improving common health disorders and disease prevention. Lectures will cover examples of TCM health food therapy and their functions, as well as acupuncture demonstrations, Tui-na and massage techniques from TCM for weight control, pain relief, etc. Students will also experience herbal tea and flower-based tea therapy for health maintenance, as well as Chinese medicinal food therapy in their daily life.
GDSC 1036 Introduction to Medicinal Plants (3,3,0) (P)
This course will introduce the fundamental scientific knowledge of the medicinal plants and its applications as Chinese herbal medicines. Students will learn the general anatomic and morphologic characters of plants; common medicinal plants in Hong Kong; the identification and use of Chinese herbal medicines and as well as the modern research and application on different kinds of medicinal plants. In the process of introducing medicinal plants using as Chinese herbal medicines, student will also learn the mysterious of traditional Chinese medicine.

GDSC 1037 Invitation to Sports Science (3,3,0) (E)
This course will focus on exercise physiology, training science, and prevention and care of sports injuries. Through lectures, discussions, and group projects, this course will introduce students to factors affecting the bodily functions in humans during exercise. Some of these factors include exercise environment, training effects, and the physiological make-up of the individual. To optimize students’ understanding of the effect of selected factors on exercise response, for example energy consumption and thermoregulation, students will be invited to observe demonstrations carried out in laboratory settings. Prevention and care of sports injury is another aspect of sports science addressed in this course. Students will be introduced to the knowledge and skills related to treatment of sports injury such as procedures and techniques of basic life support, on-the-field acute care, and other emergency procedures. Apart from lectures and discussions, hands-on opportunities, such as sports massage and taping, will also be provided to enhance students’ learning.

GDSC 1045 Wellness in Contemporary Society (3,3,0) (E)
This course is designed for non-science/non-Chinese medicine majors to develop knowledge and skills to enhance wellness. Wellness is the state of healthy living achieved by the practice of a healthy lifestyle. To enjoy an optimal state of wellness, people need to achieve physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, social, and environmental health. Through lectures, projects, laboratory works and class activities, students will be able to acquire knowledge about contributors to wellness, means to achieve an optimal level of wellness, and management of a healthy lifestyle in Hong Kong. At the end of this course, students will be able to acquire the necessary skills to evaluate various wellness dimensions, interpret the data and apply scientific principles to make wellness enhancement plans.

GDSC 1805 Biotechnology, Altering Nature, and Being Human (3,2,1) (E)
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?”

GDSC 1807 Energy, Environment and Sustainability (3,3,0) (E)
Climate change and the depletion of energy resources are issues of major international concern in the contemporary world. This course aims to introduce the diverse facets of contemporary energy problems and their associated environmental dilemmas, such as air pollution, waste disposal and climate change. The course will adopt several lively approaches designed to enhance the teaching of relevant facts and concepts, from a layman’s perspective. This will focus on the multiple and intricate relationships that occur between energy, environment and sustainability issues. In addition to classroom learning, the teaching will be supplemented by field visits, demonstrations, group projects and debates.

GDSC 1815 God, Creation and the Evolving Cosmos (3,2,1)
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.

GDSC 1816 Interactive Computing for Visual Communication (3,3,0) (E)
Media convergence has transformed the computational machine into an unprecedented rich multimedia communication medium with ubiquitous connectively and interactive capability. This new medium presents endless possibilities with applications full of dynamic contents and rich visual user interface experience. Expertise in both computer science and visual communication are needed in order to fulfill the application demands. This course aims to address these demands and prepare the students with all-around trainings and skills to master the challenges. Unlike traditional courses which are merely designed for one specific discipline of students, this course offers a unique platform for students without any prerequisites in mathematics, computer programming or visual design to acquire and establish the knowledge necessarily for the challenges. This course introduce high-level programming concepts and approaches visual design on the new medium using approachable and intuitive computational visual building block environment such as Processing developed by MIT.

GDSC 1826 Seeing the World from Scientific and Artistic Perspectives (3,3,0) (E)
The course will give students a well-rounded and advanced approach towards arts and science. The course will be taught by a team of artists and scientists from both faculties. It will cover topics on the development of art forms from a historical perspective that have a distinct relationship with the advancement of science. Examples of integration between artistic inspiration and scientific knowledge will be illustrated.

GDSC 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.

GDSC 1836 Creativity 101 (1,1,0) (E)
The course objective is to improve individual’s creativity and innovative skill by strengthening one’s mindset in observation, curiosity seeking, association, visualization, out-of-box thinking and the ability to capture the flash of brilliance.

GDSC 1846 Leadership in Sustainability (3,3,0) (E)
The course, Leadership in Sustainability, is proposed to help develop responsible business graduates who can decipher the importance of leadership practiced by sustainability leaders in the corporate world. The aspects of good practice include environmental protection, good governance, quality and safe
product and service offerings, motivational human resources management and proactive stakeholder engagement.

This new course extends far beyond the classroom. It includes several teaching and learning methods including case studies, mentoring by corporate leaders, field studies, innovative problem solving, experiential learning and descriptive case writing.

The objective is to maximize students' exposure to real leadership cases in driving sustainability. In the process, students will generate intrinsic motivation to delve into the understanding of related issues, develop the right values for ethical and responsible management and be prepared to become change agents.

Corporate partnership will be sought so that students can learn about sustainability practice through first hand visits and data gathering for putting together descriptive cases of sustainable practice.

GDSC 1847 Everyday Physics for Future Executives

In this course, a descriptive approach will introduce non-science students to concepts of physics that considerably overlap other disciplines and impact societal issues; the concepts and analyses will enable them to develop well-informed opinions and decisions in business, in public policy-making, in communications, in visual arts, in daily life, etc. Thereby leadership capabilities will be instilled in our students. This course is adapted from a famous GE course given at the University of California. "Physics and Technology for Future Presidents". It will use HKBU's iQlickers to immediately gauge the students' understanding, as well as Peer Instruction developed at Harvard by physicist Prof Eric Mazur.

GDSC 1857 Service Leadership in Action (Health Services)

The aim of this course is to introduce the concepts of service leadership and their actualization in health services, with particular emphasis on Chinese medicine. It is envisaged that through the sharing of experiences from stakeholders of the different sectors of health services in Hong Kong, it will provide a foundation for the students to draw up a service leadership business plan and deliver services in health care with competence, responsibilities and care in the future.

GDSC 1866 Music, Science, and the Sublime

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 predominately 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.

GDSC 1887 Paths to Service Leadership in Health Services

Service leadership is about providing high quality caring service. Since “the Server is the Service”, the emphasis of this course is on the quality of the server. Through a review of the different care services such as those provided by Christian Care Services in Hong Kong over the past years, and an insight into the ethos behind such services, the different elements of service and leadership competencies including knowledge, skills, values, communication and attitudes will be introduced. Special emphasis will also be on health communication involving healthcare personnel, administrators, the community and the media.

In the course students will be given opportunities to put what they have learned through serving in two host organizations to the needy groups in the community.

GDSC 1895 Digital and Social Media Engagement

The course examines the major themes and debates in different disciplines and in different time periods that have shaped human civilization. After the course, students will have a better understanding of our society as a global and complex phenomenon. From scientific prose to love poems, to documentary films and to detective stories, the course also focuses on how language is used to convey some controversial ideas and themes. At least two themes will be chosen, depending on students' preferences and the expertise of instructor/guest speakers and can cover a range of topics such as evolution, gender, love, violence, utopia, environment, globalization and human rights. The focus is on how to integrate insights from different disciplines in order to address an important problem or issue.

Through the reading of a range of works drawn from different disciplines, students will also improve their reading, writing and argumentation skills.

GDSS 1005 Coping with Life Challenges

This course will introduce background knowledge on the processes involved in adjustment of individuals to their personal and social environments. Students will explore key theories, concepts and techniques in psychology concerning personal growth and behaviour change. Topics covered include personality, aspects of the self, stress, social influence, interpersonal attraction and communication, emotional expression, transition and trauma, gender roles and differences, sexual expression, workplace challenges and developing healthier behaviours. Techniques for managing stress, reducing anxiety, coping with anger, increasing assertiveness, and achieving self-control are considered in this course.

GDSS 1006 Striving for Sustainability: Education about, in, and for the Environment in Various Contexts

The course will begin by tracing the origin of environmentalism and the ideas of sustainable development and environmental sustainability. Students will learn about the theories and practices behind the acquisition of environment-friendly knowledge, skills and values. Students will explore education for sustainability (EES)/ environmental education (EE) in school systems of Hong Kong and other places. The course will analyse other agencies' efforts to transmit pro-environment and sustainability messages, and to operate related activities, such as organic farm visits organized by green NGOs, tree planting sponsored by corporations, and waste recycling drive led by neighbourhood groups.

GDSS 1007 Education, Schooling and Society

The course aims at enhancing students’ knowledge and understanding of the relationship between school and society and the sociological concepts pertaining to education. It provides students with the conceptual tools to analyse educational issues and school practices from different sociological perspectives. Emphasis will be put on fostering students' awareness of the issues embedded in the relationship between school and society.

GDSS 1015 Interacting with the Past—Museums, Heritage Sites and Cultural Policy in Hong Kong

Museums and heritage sites are favourite and respected resources for learning worldwide. Field trip to various heritage sites is a teaching pedagogy that draws on experiential learning.

GDSS 1016 Internet Identities, New Media Literacies and Ethics

This course generates deeper understandings about Internet participation and how its shift into the cultural mainstream raises ethical and identity challenges for young people. In the virtual frontiers of new digital media landscapes—Google, Facebook, MySpace, Flickr, YouTube, Twitter, Virtual worlds, multi-player online games and blogs—a number of issues emerge related to identity, privacy, authorship and ownership, credibility and participation. It examines the redefining of individuals’ actions both morally and socially, thus challenging moral concepts and