

**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 literary 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, 大眾文化如何影響文學的書寫, 以及大眾文化與文學之間的關聯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 儒家文化的回溯與展望——韓劇的啟示 (3,2,1)**  
**The Review and Outlook of Confucian Culture as Revealed in Korean Television Drama**

本科考察亞洲國家的儒家思想在現代化下的作用和變化。本科採用不同題材的韓國電視劇, 包括歷史傳記、愛情文藝、家庭倫理等劇種, 通過分析劇中古今人物的思想行為模式, 討論儒家文化在韓國的重要性, 比較韓國儒家文化與儒家原典記載的差異。

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**

遊觀文學是中國文學中的精華, 世界自然文化遺產是自然和人文之美的結合。本課程從中國的世界自然文化遺產中選出六處歷代文人描寫較多的景觀, 按每一處選擇記遊的詩歌、散文名篇若干, 聯繫與該處遺產有關的歷史、地理、宗教、科學、建築、園林、書法、雕塑、民俗等各種知識, 講析作品內容和表現藝術。

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 (3,3,0)**  
**Linguistic Awareness**

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 theatric 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 theatric 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, ludus, 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 eroticism 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 and 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 relationship 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 every-day 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 methodology 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 the 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)**

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 lectures 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 literature 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 fulfilment.

**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