

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 in Hong Kong (3,3,0) (C)

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 and Enjoying the Musical Arts (3,3,0) (E)

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