

LCS 2120 Introduction to World Civilization (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to introduce the different approaches in understanding different civilizations, their encounter, interaction and conflicts. It will first introduce the different theories of understanding world civilizations, e.g. their characteristics, strength and weakness, and their grandeur and decline. It will also discuss, with illustration of literary work and films examples, interaction and conflict between civilizations, e.g. China and the West, Christian and Muslim, and the “discovery” of America. It will serve as an introductory course for cultural studies by providing basic knowledge and methods in the study of culture and civilization.

LCS 2130 Love and Humanities (3,*,*) (C)

This course approaches one of the most difficult questions of the human condition, “What is love?”, from philosophical, historical and anthropological perspectives. Students will acquire an understanding of Western and cross-cultural theories of love. They will apply this understanding to contemporary cultural and social phenomena and critically respond to them. The course also creates and strengthens students’ interest in life histories with diverse cultural backgrounds as references for personal growth.

LCS 2210 The Classical Heritage (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to introduce the foundations of Western culture, i.e. the ancient Greek and Roman culture. It helps students comprehend and appreciate the various aspects of classical culture, i.e. from art, literature, history and politics, and their significance for the modern Western world. It serves not only as a perfect introduction to the foundation of Western civilization, but also provides a sound basis for the development of the student’s cultural literacy and sensibility. In addition, the course will also discuss classical Chinese heritage of the similar period, i.e. the pre-Qin culture so that the students may gain a comparative perspective. It will serve as an introductory course for cultural studies by providing basic knowledge and methods in the study of culture and civilization.

LCS 2220 Modern Western Thought (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to introduce the modern Western thought from Enlightenment to the 20th century. It aims at introducing the major trends in modern Western thought as a major driving force of political, social and artistic developments shaping the modern Western world. It helps students to understand how thinkers in the world respond to the challenge of modernity, and thus understand the Western world as we know it today.

LCS 2230 Modernity and China (3,*,*) (P)

This course aims to introduce the idea of modernity in the Western world, its genesis, development and its spread to the world. It will discuss the challenge of modernity and China’s response, thus achieving an understanding of how Chinese modernity came into shape. It discusses the historical, cultural, literary and artistic trends in China from the end of the 19th century to the 1980s as an expression of Chinese modernity.

LCS 2310 Fairy Tales and Our Society (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to guide students towards a study of the fairy tales including the basic narrative structure, major components, main themes and features, and some of the cultural and historical transformations in recent centuries. Special attention would be given to the various possible interpretations of fairy tales in our society regarding the domains of gender, race, class, culture and other factors of identity formation.

LCS 2320 Detective Fiction and the Modern World (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to study the social, cultural and historical reasons for the appearance of the fiction of detection, and to provide an overview of its development from the mid-19th century to the present. Examples of detective fiction which mark important points in its historical development will be studied to understand how this genre changes according to changing social, cultural and

historical environment in our world.

LCS 2330 Introduction to Cultural and Creative Industries (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to introduce students to cultural and creative industries in general and their development in Hong Kong in particular. It explores popular cultures and their possible relationship with the development of creative industries from a cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary perspective.

LCS 2340 Popular Music and Society (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to enhance students’ knowledge of popular music and its relation to society at large. It will also develop students’ critical understanding of the academic study of popular music. Students will have to examine popular music studies and apply them to analyse popular music in the special context of Hong Kong society.

LCS 2350 Manga and Anime: Japanese Popular Culture in Hong Kong (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to introduce students to the popularity of Japanese animation (anime) and comics (manga) in Hong Kong by considering anime and manga as medium, art, culture, and industry. It examines the reasons why these forms of popular culture from Japan can appeal to Hong Kong youths and investigates their historical developments in the city. This course is relevant to all realms of academic inquiry, and should attract students who share interests in media studies, in communications, in industrial structures, in art and visual form, in gender treatment, and in Japanese fan culture, and cross-cultural studies.

LCS 2360 Horror Film and Fiction (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to introduce students to a comprehensive overview of the traditions of horror tales and cinematic genre of horror. Always berated and frequently overlooked in academic study, horror serves a significant social function to signal the indescribable anxiety of the society. Horror inherently deals with some forbidden topics or disturbing course matters, thus it might be the most socially revealing genre. We do not only look into the history of horror but also examine the definition of horror. The course investigates the cultural function, representation of horror and what pleasure we derive from it.

LCS 2370 Sex and Gender in the Media (3,*,*) (C)

This course aims to introduce students to the representations of sexuality and notions of gender in mass media. Topics that will be discussed include sexual image, sexual language and gender behaviour in entertainment television and commercial films, effects of pornography on the Internet, sex and violence in movies, sex and music videos, and the film and TV content ratings system. The course also examines the social, political and economic influences of sexuality in mass media on ethics, industry and community from cross-disciplinary perspectives.

LCS 2380 Theme Park and Other Themed Spaces (3,*,*) (C)

This course aims to introduce students to the social functions and ideological meanings of leisure institutions, from museums, fairs, gardens to amusement parks, movie theaters, world expo and other themed spaces. We focus on the notion of leisure and play, and investigate the wide world of themed entertainment. While looking at particular case studies and particular leisure spaces, ranging from Disneyland to ethnic villages and Imax theaters, we look into the connection between play and modern life, the utopian elements of leisure spaces, the impacts of the increasingly global and lucrative contemporary tourist industry on the production of historical knowledge and the invention of traditions, and other issues related to cultural politics and management.

LCS 2390 Understanding Media Culture (3,2,1) (E)

This course aims to introduce the complex issues, theories and methods involved in understanding contemporary mediascape. Through reading classic and contemporary texts on the media,