

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 and 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,

students will learn various theories of the media, the issues raised by these theories, the strengths and weaknesses of these theories, and the diverse methods of studying the media.

LCS 2410 Introduction to Cultural Studies (3,2,1) (E)

This course provides a fundamental understanding of cultural studies for further advanced learning. A general introduction will be given to clarify basic historical developments of abundant theories and approaches in this field. A wide range of interesting materials in the past, as well as nowadays, will be applied to explain some important disciplinary boundaries. Several controversial social phenomena related to our daily life will be chosen for discussion, in order to reveal the intellectual values of cultural studies.

LCS 2420 Introduction to Gender and Sexuality (3,2,1) (E)

This course aims to provide students with a foundational understanding of gender and sexuality from an inter-disciplinary perspective. It equips students with a basic understanding of concepts, theories of gender and sexuality, and debates of related issues in the contemporary world. Upon completion of the course, students are expected to have a general and critical understanding of the political, cultural and social aspects of gender and sexuality and can participate in specialized discussions of related topics.

LCS 3110 Masterpieces in Humanities (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to introduce excellent works of literary and other art forms in English and Chinese of both traditional and contemporary domains. The course will demonstrate the excellence of human creativity in these works and attempt to understand their cultural and historical backgrounds, as well as the nature and development of the related media. The course will also encourage students to confront the contemporary controversy surrounding these canonical works, and exercise independently their critical, analytical, and creative judgments in assessing the value of such canonical works in the contemporary world.

LCS 3120 Hong Kong Studies (3,*,*) (C)

This course aims to introduce students to different aspects of Hong Kong studies with a multi-disciplinary approach. Through the exploration of recent studies on Hong Kong in the fields of culture, society, history and politics, it also tries to address issues related to ethics/values and promote understanding of Hong Kong as a cosmopolitan city.

LCS 3210 Understanding Globalization (3,*,*) (C)

This course aims to enhance students' understanding of globalization and its impact on society, economics and culture. Through the examination of different theories and issues related to globalization, it also aims to foster students' critical evaluation of and reflection on globalization studies from different perspectives.

LCS 3220 Rethinking Cultures: East and West (3,*,*) (C)

This course aims to help students comprehend major theories of culture of the 20th century from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students will familiarize themselves with seminal debates and how they are or are not relevant to contemporary Hong Kong society. They will also acquire a global and critical sensibility with respect to culture as manifested in both material and symbolic realms. Students will engage with issues and acquire knowledge and skills in identifying, profiling and discussing them. In brief, the course will act as a capstone of the programme where the culmination of inter-disciplinary knowledge can be actualized.

LCS 3310 A History of Personal Writings (3,*,*) (E)

This course introduces a variety of personal writings to students. Starting with the form, content and structure, the course will go on to give a historical overview of major pieces of personal narratives of different types, and examine the significant role played by memory in the construction of personal narratives. The course will also discuss the interesting mixture of fact and fiction

in any personal writing, as well as the intriguing relationship between the subject and object of the narrative. In the course of the semester, students will also have a chance to create their own personal narratives and be guided to recognize the power of this writing in relation to their personal growth.

LCS 3320 The Critical and Creative Spirit: The Case of Historical Fiction (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to demonstrate the interrelationship between creativity and the critical spirit through the examination and discussion of the historical fiction. While it is generally believed that creativity and the critical spirit are two separate and sometimes even opposite approaches and qualities, this course hopes to show that they are two sides of the same coin. Through a study of the historical fiction, students will see the creative aspects of a critical research, and how being critical is an important step towards creativity.

LCS 3330 Creative Writing in Practice (3,*,*) (C)

This course provides both the theoretical knowledge and the opportunity for practical experience to students who are interested in discovering their creativity and exercising it in writing. An introduction to the creative process and the basic approaches to creativity are given at the beginning of the course, before students are taken through selected types of creative work. The course focuses equally on careful guidance in students' appreciation of creative works, as well as in their own creative practice.

LCS 3340 The World of Theatre (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to introduce the major forms in theatre from the West to the East. It discusses the relation between different theatre aesthetics and forms, and its relation to reality, and the historical and social background. It helps students to analyse and appreciate different styles and genres of theatre, their aesthetic principle, and their relation with their time and culture. It will also show examples of theatre forms with the help of original texts, and videos or live performances. Students will have the opportunity to see live theatre performances and have discussion with theatre artists.

LCS 3350 Exploring the City (3,*,*) (C)

This course aims to enhance students' understanding of the city. While cities are diverse and exciting, they also pose challenging problems. Through the examination of classic and contemporary texts on the city, students will acquire an in-depth understanding of key developments in the study of the city. Case studies will also be used to develop the analytical techniques of the students.

LCS 3360 Great Thinkers on Meanings of Life (3,*,*) (C)

This course aims to promote students' reflection on existential questions about life and its values by introducing them to philosophical thoughts of classical and modern thinkers of both the Chinese and the Western cultures. The focus will be on the meaning of human life. It will provide students with inspiring intellectual discourses of the selected thinkers and their self exploration and speculation process. The course will analyse philosophical texts written by these thinkers and the answers they offer on the issue of the meaning of life. Finally, it will encourage students to examine their own value systems and living attitudes to life, and to relate them to the human conditions discussed by the thinkers. This course is also designed to introduce philosophical thinking.

LCS 3370 Digital Media and Culture (3,*,*) (E)

This course aims to introduce students to a comprehensive overview of theories of digital media in contemporary culture. Based on a historical understanding of digital media developments, the course explores the role of new media in a globally networked world. It also examines the social, political and economic influences of new digital technologies on culture, industry, creativity and community from cross-disciplinary perspectives.