

GDAR 1026 Food and Humanities (3,2,1)

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 in Hong Kong (3,3,0)

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)

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)

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)/(E)

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.