

This course will also analyse issues pertaining to cultural encounters, accommodations, and confrontations in modern and contemporary Chinese history with some emphasis on Hong Kong. This study of cultural interaction will help students acquire a vision of the changing world and develop their ability to adapt to those changes.

HUMN 2015 Writing Seminar: Workshop in Creative Writing (3,2,1)

This course aims to enable students to understand and examine the major creative writing genres through practices and critical analysis, explore the rich diversity of modern literary writings, and read representative works in English and Chinese that will parallel the writing exercises in both languages. (This course is cross-listed as WRIT 2015.)

HUMN 2016 Performing as Human Experience (3,2,1)

This course aims to (1) boost students' power of reflection on their daily life experience and values through dramatic re-enactment of situations; (2) enhance students' multiple intelligences including spatial, intra-personal and inter-personal, etc.; and (3) improve students' expressive capacity through better use of their bodies and speech.

HUMN 2017 A Lifelong Romance with Films (3,2,1)

This course aims to provide students a humanistic learning experience through examining selected films which discuss fundamental issues of life and living. Films chosen for the course will be narratives about different life stages—childhood, teenage years, adulthood, old age—and will present students opportunities for discussion of meanings and significance of experiences at these life stages. In the course of examining these films and discussing the various questions related to life and living, students will also be learning about the film medium, such as the different genres and their conventions, how stories are told, and different strategies of representation. Through interactive and experiential learning, the course aims to enhance students' skills of discussion, creative expression, critical thinking, and cultural literacy. It is also hoped that students will form the habit of active participation and become responsible learners.

HUMN 2025 Gender: Theory and Culture (3,2,1)

This course will introduce students to trends of thought and the basic theories in gender studies. This interdisciplinary introduction will define and explore how gender is constructed socially, culturally, and historically, using examples from various cultures.

HUMN 2026 Globalization and Culture (3,2,1)

This course is designed to equip students with the ability to understand culture in the age of globalization from an interdisciplinary perspective. It will study the changing conceptions of culture and the major trends of thought in the discourse of globalization, trying to unravel the complex relationship between globalization and culture.

HUMN 2027 Introduction to the Art of Theatre (3,2,1) (C)

This course aims to introduce the histories and aesthetic principles of the major forms of theatre from the West to the East. It discusses the relation between different forms of theatre and their relations to reality, 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 theatre forms with the help of original texts, videos or live performances.

HUMN 2035 Introduction to Western Classical Culture (3,2,1)

This course aims to introduce the foundations of Western culture, i.e. the ancient Greek and Roman culture through understanding and appreciation of selected literary texts. By reading of representative works in epic, drama, poetry, rhetoric, history and philosophy, it helps students comprehend and appreciate the

various aspects of classical culture and their significance for the modern Western world. It thus serves as an essential part of the western tradition of humanistic education. Relevant dramas and films about ancient Greece and Rome will also be shown in class to consolidate the understanding of these cultures.

HUMN 2036 Media and Communication: Issues, Concepts and Theories (3,2,1)

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.

HUMN 2045 The Art of Speech: Appreciation and Practice (3,2,1)

This course aims to (1) foster appreciation of the role of rhetoric in Western and Chinese culture, and critical awareness of the power and limitations of the spoken art of persuasion; (2) help students acquire knowledge and understanding of the history and theory of rhetoric the basic philosophical issues about rhetoric and the methods of speech analysis; and (3) provide students with practice and training in the skills of speech composition and delivery.

HUMN 2047 City, Space and Creativity (3,2,1)

This course introduces reflections of how city, space and creativity are inter-related. Through the study of concrete examples drawn from the local, regional and global context, this course investigates the social and cultural construction of various creative spaces in cities such as museum, gallery, studio, community art space, street and other public sphere; examines how spaces and places are shaped and how they in turn influence human subjectivities, behaviours, imaginations and creativity; and provides discussion of the possibility of understanding and imagining space in cities creatively through different kinds of interpretation, intervention and invention.

HUMN 3005 Artistic Creativity and Aesthetics Awareness (3,2,1) (C)

This course aims to (1) introduce artistic creativity as one of the best inventions of the human mind and the sense of beauty as an important dimension of being humane; (2) introduce major principles and theories of art to help students understand various artistic creative processes and their products; (3) enhance students' critical thinking on artistic phenomena and their reflections on the artistic developments in different social and cultural contexts; (4) encourage students to develop their own artistic abilities, and prepares them to create, appreciate, understand and review works of art critically; and (5) enhance students' knowledge and understanding of Chinese and Western aesthetics, and the classical and modern masterpieces produced from these aesthetic theories.

HUMN 3006 Great Works in the Humanities (3,2,1) (C)

This course presents an array of primary texts, in English and Chinese, which have shaped the study of the Humanities and have been acknowledged as formative masterpieces in the study of the Humanities. The course will demonstrate, through the particular address of primary texts, the humanistic tradition of intertextual study involving literary, philosophical, historical and other forms of writing. The course will encourage students to confront the contemporary controversy surrounding canonical literature, and it will encourage students to exercise independently their critical, analytical, and creative judgments in assessing the value of such canonical works in the modern world.

HUMN 3007 Language and the Humanities (3,2,1)

The goal of this interdisciplinary course is to explore the role of language in defining our fundamental human nature as symbol-constructing, symbol-using beings. Furthermore, the course examines how fundamental issues within the Humanities intersect

with the nature of language as both a system and an activity to produce the complex human world we experience as simply “the way things are”.

HUMN 3015 The Making of the Contemporary World (3,2,1)

This course aims to introduce students to the diverse ways of defining modernity from a humanistic perspective and help them develop a critical awareness of our present human condition through a comprehensive view of the formation and the nature of the contemporary world. Emphasis will be placed on the various intellectual, social, philosophical, political, and cultural and technological developments that have transformed the modern world into the contemporary world. The course will integrate notions of modernity from science, politics, religion, philosophy and the arts.

HUMN 3016 Professional Writing Practicum: Essentials of the Craft of Writing (3,2,1) (C)

This course aims to (1) enable students to cope with the writing tasks in the commercial and public fields of employment in Hong Kong; (2) help student grasp and understand the functional forms of writing in both English and Chinese; and (3) teach students the intellectual and practical skills necessary for effective communication in the commercial field. (This course is cross-listed as WRIT 3006.)

HUMN 3025 Chinese Song Lyric Writing (3,2,1) (C)

This course aims to enable students to understand and examine Chinese song lyrics by exploring the crafts and creativity, the practices and possibilities of this particular literary genre. Student's ability to write Chinese song lyrics will be enhanced through appreciation and practice. Students will also be familiarized with the functions of song lyrics in contemporary cultural contexts.

HUMN 3026 Creative Industries: Theories and Practices (3,2,1)

This course is designed to enhance students' understanding of creative industries in general and its development in Hong Kong in particular. It explores popular cultures and its possible relationship with the development of creative industries in a cross-disciplinary approach.

HUMN 3027 Death and Culture (3,2,1)

This course aims at introducing the examining the problem of death from different perspectives like religion, philosophy, art and literature. It examines the religious representation of life after death, philosophical reflections of death and its meanings, and the representations of death in different art forms like literature, drama, visual art and film. Examples from Western, Chinese and other cultures will be used whenever it is appropriate. It helps students to understand and engage in critical discussion about the meanings of death from the cultural, religious and philosophical perspectives.

HUMN 3035 Devil and Culture (3,2,1)

The aim of this course is to introduce and examine cultural issues related to the idea of devil and its representations in the Western cultural tradition. It will discuss the idea of evil and the devil from the religious-historical and philosophical perspectives, and then look at examples of the representations of devil from literature, drama and film. Some examples of the Chinese ideas of evil and devil will also be used for comparison. It will help students to understand, interpret and make sense of the idea of the evil and the devil and its meaning in the modern world.

HUMN 3036 Human Beings and Their Imaginary Monsters (3,2,1)

This course aims to study a selection of literary and cinema classics and popular texts which feature monsters created by human beings in modern times. The fascination with the monstrous, as indicated by the variety of monsters created as well

as the sustained interest throughout modern times, can be seen as our continuous attempt to discover who we are and how we are related to the world. The studying of these monsters students have created reveals the fears, anxieties and uncertainties human experience in their struggle to self-understanding.

HUMN 3037 New Media Cultures (3,2,1)

This course examines from a cultural studies approach how new media shape and change representation, ideology and power relations in contemporary culture. It is an investigation of the struggle over meaning, knowledge and power produced by newer forms of media (web sites, virtual worlds, multimedia, computer games, digital video, special effects in cinema and net films, interactive computer installations, etc.). Analysing whether the newness of new media is really new or just a reformation of what already exists, this course explores what kind of challenge new media have brought to our everyday life and studies if the new forms produce distinctively different contents and audiences. We also look at how new media accentuate the productive dimension of the consumption process and identify the moments of transformation in cultural consumption.

HUMN 3045 Popular Music Studies (3,2,1)

This course aims to widen and deepen the students' basic knowledge of popular music as a pervasive cultural form in contemporary society. It will also enhance their critical understanding of popular music as an academic study through an inter-disciplinary approach.

HUMN 3046 Science Fiction, Film and Culture (3,2,1)

This course aims to examine science fiction through some of its most influential works in the novel, short story, and film. Science fiction and film are the cultural forms that reflect how we understand our world. The possible worlds that science fiction writers and filmmakers predicted do not only offer to conceive some alternate systems but also represent contemplations on radical difference and otherness as well as the ideological nature of our social totality. This course examines how the imaginations of science fiction and film are connected to the historical and collective fantasy of our social world. The culture of science fiction and film, seemingly distanced from its social context, precisely serves as a critique of the latter, by ruminating on the ideological mechanism of virtual reality, human-machine, future institutions, alien races, and the nature of humanity. This course will not only assess the development of science fiction as a popular genre from the early decades of the twentieth century to the explosion of science fiction from the 1950s to the present, but it also traces back to the “proto-science fiction writers” of the renaissance and eighteenth century through the evolution of science fiction in the nineteenth century with Shelley, Poe, Verne, and others. In addition, the course will explore why the science fiction genre is missing in Chinese culture.

HUMN 3047 The Present State of the Arts (3,2,1)

This course aims to (1) provide introductory study, appreciation and critical analyse on modern and contemporary art scenes, including the current development of Hong Kong art, the new Chinese art as well as contemporary Asian art; (2) give students key information for better apprehension of our current cultural phenomena; (3) appreciate art through gallery and exhibition visits, dialogues with artists alongside with lectures and tutorial studies; and (4) consolidate the studies and understanding of art through direct experience and exposure to art.

HUMN 3055 Popular Media and Public Culture in Hong Kong (3,2,1) (C)

This course aims to develop a theoretical and contextual understanding of how Hong Kong popular media contribute to the formation of local public culture and cultural diversity. The course has two focuses. First, it examines how various forms of local popular media are historically shaped by a wide range of external socio-political factors, government policy, local politics, market dynamics, agencies of cultural workers, and changing