

novel, short story, and film. 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 programme 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 programme 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 programme will explore why the science fiction genre is missing in Chinese culture.

HUM 2330 A Lifelong Romance with Films (3,4,0)

This course aims to provide students with 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.

HUM 2350 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 we have created reveals the fears, anxieties and uncertainties we experience in our struggle to self-understanding.

HUM 2360 Introduction to the Art of Theatre (3,2,1)

This course aims to provide students with a survey of important forms of eastern and western theatre practised through the ages. Under guidance students will learn to appreciate and analyse different styles and genres of theatre, their aesthetic principles, and their relation with reality and their historical and cultural background. Different artistic aspects like directing, acting and stage design will be taken into consideration to illustrate the aesthetic principles of these theatrical forms. Students will be given exposure to scripts, videos or live performances of theatrical works.

HUM 2370 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.

HUM 2380 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.

HUM 2390 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.

HUM 2400 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.

HUM 2410 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.

HUM 2420 Chinese Song Lyric Writing (3,2,1)

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.

HUM 2610 The Study of Culture (3,2,1)

This course will introduce the dynamic conceptions of culture and criticisms of culture as the product and accumulation of human activities and creativities. Students will understand culture as human experience that differentiates humans most completely from animals and as something that actualizes our potentialities as human beings. They will also recognize that the methods of inquiry and interpretation are themselves outcomes of culture itself.

HUM 3130 Special Topic in the Humanities (3,2,1)

This course provides an opportunity for senior students to study in depth selected topics in contemporary issues related to the study of the humanities. Through examination of theories related to the topic, students will look at cultural issues from an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. The course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgment.

HUM 3140 Histories (3,2,1)

The course will introduce students to some of the diverse functions history has served in thought, belief and government. It will also introduce both traditional notions and contemporary reevaluations of history. Students will be inculcated with the intellectual habit of thinking within interdisciplinary perspectives. The interrelationship among history, literature, science, politics and religion will also be demonstrated. Historical episodes and examples will be chosen from European, North American and Chinese history.