

topics/issues to examine the impact of social factors and situational variables that influence human development and social interactions/behaviours. Not only do students read about and discuss these social topics/issues but they also make observations about social behaviours in everyday life and reflect on their own participation in social interaction.

**PSY 2110 Social Psychology (3,2,1)**

Prerequisite: PSY 1110 Principles of Psychology

This course is chiefly concerned with understanding the character of the influences of relationships, small groups, and the larger institutions of society. Topics include interpersonal attraction, discrimination, aggression, conformity, group processes and leadership, development of opinions and attitudes, and prosocial behaviour in terms of the thought and feelings of the individual involved. The personal and societal applications of social psychology are examined.

**PSY 2130 Psychology of Work (3,2,1)**

Prerequisite: PSY 1110 Principles of Psychology

This course provides students with the basic concepts in psychology that are essential to the study and understanding of work-related behaviour, facilitating interpersonal communication, coping with work-stress, and managing group decision, and leadership.

**PSY 2140 Coping with Life Challenges (3,2,1)**

This course aims to provide students with background knowledge on the processes involved in adjustment of individuals to their personal and social environments. The course surveys people's responses to major change, conflict, stress, and frustration in life. Emphasis is placed on understanding, evaluating and improving psychological adjustment. Students will have an opportunity to explore key theories, concepts and techniques in psychology concerning personal growth and behaviour change; and apply them to deal with different crisis situations in life. Topics covered include personality, aspects of the self, stress, social influence, interpersonal attraction and communication, emotional expression, transition and trauma, gender roles and differences, sexual expression, workplace challenges and developing healthier behaviours. Techniques for managing stress, reducing anxiety, coping with anger, increasing assertiveness, and achieving self-control are also considered in this course. Students will consolidate and reflect on their learning regularly through case studies of life challenges.

**PSY 2620 Psychology of Personality (3,2,1)**

Prerequisite: PSY 1110 Principles of Psychology

This course aims at stimulating students' thinking in current issues and controversies in the scientific study of personality. It involves a survey of various theoretical approaches to personality: the psychodynamic, behavioural, humanistic, trait, and information-processing. Topics include personality development, personality dynamics and personality assessment. Current research on the personality of Chinese people will be introduced.

**PSY 2630 Abnormal Psychology (3,2,1)**

Prerequisite: PSY 1110 Principles of Psychology

This course provides a survey of mental disorders in terms of the emotional, psychological, and cultural constellation of the person. It involves a survey of various behavioural disorders: anxiety, mood, delusional, developmental and personality. Topics include suicide, schizophrenia and mental retardation. Legal and ethical issues in treatment and therapy are examined.

**PSY 2640 Developmental Psychology (3,2,1)**

Prerequisite: PSY 1110 Principles of Psychology

This course is mainly concerned with understanding the different aspects of psychological development such as physical, perceptual, language, cognitive, emotional, social and moral development. It covers developmental changes from conception to old age including death and dying. Current research on the psychological development of Chinese people will be introduced.

**PSY 3780 Counselling Theories and Practice (3,2,1)**

Prerequisite: PSY 2620 Psychology of Personality

This course provides an orientation to counselling as a scientific study of helping relationship. It involves a survey of selected major counselling theories and techniques. Special counselling areas and populations and ethical considerations are included.

**REL 1210 Major Themes in World Religions (3,2,1)**

This course gives students a comprehensive introduction to the nature and variety of religious belief and practice. Illustrations will be drawn from living religious traditions including at least Buddhism, Christianity, Daoism, Hinduism, and Islam. It allows them to learn, on the one hand, that there are diverse human religious expressions and beliefs, and on the other hand, that religions which appear in different societies across vast periods of historical time share many common concerns.

**REL 1220 Religious Rituals and Practices in Hong Kong (3,2,1)**

This course aims to provide an understanding of rituals and practices of various religious traditions in Hong Kong, their social and cultural significance for the local population. The course will focus on three areas: (1) Chinese religions, including Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and popular religion; (2) Christianity, including Catholicism and Protestantism; (3) religious minorities, such as Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Zoroastrianism.

**REL 1240 Buddhism (3,2,1)**

This is an introductory study of Buddhism, giving a comprehensive view of the historical development and fundamental ideas of Buddhism. While the course puts emphasis on the philosophy of the major schools of Buddhism, it also will give attention to their religious practices.

**REL 1260 Approaches to the Study of Religion (3,2,1)**

This course gives the student an introduction to different approaches to the study of religion—the internal approach that includes textual, hermeneutical and theological studies; the different perspectival approaches, namely, the anthropological, psychological, philosophical, sociological, and religious dialogue that looks at religion and quasi-religions from different angles. The course will consider a number of examples in which the combinations of these approaches, interacting with one another, help students understand what is happening in typical religious acts.

**REL 1270 Problems of Philosophy (3,2,1)**

This course aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to the basic issues and problems of philosophy in both the western and Chinese philosophical traditions. The focus will be directed on various philosophical concepts, problems and attempted solutions, as well as the methodological issues in philosophy, including, where possible, classical and contemporary, Eastern and Western approaches. It is hoped that students will be helped not only to acquire basic knowledge of philosophy, but also to develop their own reflective and critical attitudes and the analytical ability to tackle issues in philosophy.

**REL 1280 Introduction to Christianity and Civilizations (3,2,1)**

This course is an introductory survey of some vast influences that Christianity has had on Western as well as Chinese civilizations. Both its successes and failures will be scrutinized. Topics to be discussed include higher learning, art, modern science, politics, society, war, cross-cultural exchange, etc. It also provides an overview of the major phases of development of Western Christianity.

**REL 1290 Quest for Truth and Meaning (3,2,1)**

This is an introductory course in philosophy and religious studies for students with no background knowledge. It begins by assisting students to discover the quests for truth and meaning in popular culture. After introducing some basic critical thinking skills, this course guides students to explore and appreciate the multiple relationships between philosophy, religious studies and various dimensions of human existence—individual life, society and civilization. Students will experience the joy and excitement of studying philosophy and religious studies.

**REL 2240 History of Christian Thought (3,2,1)**

This course is a study of major theological issues that have emerged in the history of the Christian Church. Focus will be given to epistemological and soteriological issues, together with other contextual problems, faced by theologians of each period who struggled to relate Christian faith to their life-situations.

**REL 2250 Hermeneutics (3,2,1)**

An introduction to the art and science of interpretation. The course examines various contemporary and historically significant theories of interpretation, together with their philosophical assumptions. Students will be equipped with practical principles and guidelines for reading, understanding, and criticizing biblical and other texts. Special attention will be given to applying such principles to the interpretation of symbols, metaphors, myths, and other types of religious language. Examples will be drawn from the Bible and other specifically religious and/or philosophical texts.

**REL 2310 Islam (3,2,1)**

This course seeks to pursue a historical study of Islamic doctrines, religious practices and institutions. Emphasis is placed on understanding the nature and teachings in the Qur'an, the sacred traditions (*hadith*), and some of their representative interpretations in medieval and modern settings.

**REL 2320 Meaning and Knowledge (3,2,1)**

This course focuses on methodological problems in relation to the philosophy of language and epistemology. It also will give attention to the issues, problems or ideas in the philosophy of language and epistemology that are most relevant to understanding the major world faiths and religious traditions.

**REL 2330 Morality and Society (3,2,1)**

The course focuses on the philosophical views concerning morality and society and their implications for thinking critically about the moral and socio-political dimensions of various philosophical or religious traditions. It will give attention to the philosophical theories or ideas that have important bearings on how we should go about answering the fundamental questions in moral and socio-political philosophy such as "How should we live?", "What do we owe to other people?", "Do we have good reason to believe that judgments of value are capable of being true or false?", "What rights and liberties should people have?", and "What rule or principle should govern the distribution of goods within society?"

**REL 2340 Existence and Reality (3,2,1)**

This course investigates the different ways religious traditions conceive of and explain problems which relate finite life to transcendent realms. Philosophical methods in approaching issues related to existence and reality will be explained, so that students can proceed to explore both exegetically and critically differing religious accounts of the relationship between existence and reality.

**REL 2350 Philosophical Issues in Chinese Religion (3,2,1)**

This course aims to introduce and investigate various philosophical issues in Chinese religion. The arguments for and against certain philosophical theses related to Chinese religion will be explained. Two or more traditions of Chinese religion will be explored at the

discretion of the instructor. Students will be encouraged to arrive at their own judgments on, or views of, certain conceptions and doctrines of Chinese religion in a critical and rational manner.

**REL 2360 Existentialism and Nihilism (3,2,1)**

The course is a study of the existentialists' quest for understanding human life and existence, with a focus on the issue of nihilism, i.e. the death of God and the denial of ultimate value and absolute truth. It begins with an introduction to the philosophical movement of existentialism: its historical background and its distinctive features in contrast with other kinds of philosophy. The central problematic of nihilism is introduced by a discussion of Nietzsche's thought. Then the thought of the major atheistic and theistic existentialists will be explored with a special emphasis on their response to the challenge of nihilism. Finally, the existentialists' major insights about the meaning of human existence will be systematically explored and critically assessed.

**REL 2410 A Survey of Jewish and Christian Scriptures (3,2,1)**

This beginning course of biblical study investigates the background, growth, contents, and messages of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures and the history from which they emerged. It introduces the results of modern biblical scholarship and its contribution to our understanding of the Bible. The situation, form, content, and message of a biblical text (or book) is studied as an integrated whole in order to arrive at a balanced understanding of the meaning of the text (or book). Attention is paid to the unity and diversity of different representations of various traditions, and the religious ideas behind them. The procedure of exegesis and the use of the pertinent tools are introduced.

**REL 2420 Biblical Theology and Moral Life (3,2,1)**

This course focuses on (1) the moral teachings of the Jewish and Christian traditions and (2) issues, problems or ideas in moral and socio-political theology that are highly relevant to understanding these religious traditions.

**REL 2430 Contemporary Theology and the Public World (3,2,1)**

This course gives a broad view of the emergence, development and interactions of major Christian thought since early twentieth century. The impact of the Enlightenment and the critical issues raised since then will be discussed. Fundamental ideas and main themes of selected contemporary Christian thinkers and related theological movements will be examined. Emphasis will be given to the contextual problems faced by the theologians who struggled to relate Christian faith to their life-situations and the relevance of creative and constructive theological insights to critical issues in the public world.

**REL 2610 Christian Spirituality (3,2,1)**

This course aims at providing an introduction to the historical, intellectual as well as the experiential dimensions of the spiritual heritage of the Christian faith. The course will be complemented by a critical evaluation of some of the major conceptual components of the discipline of Christian spirituality.

**REL 2720 Daoist Religion (3,2,1)**

This course aims to offer a comparative examination of Eastern (with an emphasis on Chinese Philosophy) and Western philosophies from a macroscopic point of view. The focus will be directed on the principal ideas advanced and the modes of thinking employed. Similarities as well as differences between Eastern and Western philosophies will be explored and discussed. Religious implications where relevant to the thoughts and theories concerned will be emphasized.

**REL 2730 Contemporary Ethical Problems (3,2,1)**

This course will tackle three or more clusters of ethical issues that are especially relevant to Hong Kong society. Ethical issues in birth, death, sex and love will be discussed here because of public concern lately. Some other issues will be included when deemed necessary.