

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

The Study of Culture

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN1005

3. **No. OF UNITS**

3 Units

4. **OFFERING DEPARTMENT**

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. **PREREQUISITES**

N.A.

6. **MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION**

Cantonese

7. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The study of culture will be conducted in a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary manner. Contemporary cultural issues, especially those in Hong Kong, will be discussed as they relate to the cultural translation between China and the world. To enhance the interdisciplinary approach to the study of culture, the instructor will address different disciplines and cultural theories including philosophy, anthropology, sociology, critical theories, literary theories, postmodern and postcolonial discourses.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

The first third of the course will discuss the notion of culture industry and related theories. The second part will investigate critical and cultural theories related to postmodern and postcolonial discourse. The last part will introduce the rise and practice of different discourses of culture in the age of globalization. The course will dwell on local examples or cultural phenomena for discussion, looking at cultural issues from cross-disciplinary and global/local angles. Relevant texts from Chinese and Western cultures will be adopted as teaching materials. Students will also discuss theoretical readings to promote understanding of the modern and contemporary discourses of culture.

Outline Contents:

- I. Ideas of Culture and Cultural Studies
- II. The Frankfurt School and Critical Theory
- III. Cultural Studies: The Birmingham School
- IV. The Culture of Everyday Life
- V. Cultural Policy Studies
- VI. The Rise of Post-isms
- VII. Postmodernism and the Politics of Culture
- VIII. Postcolonialism and Orientalism
- IX. The Study of Culture in the Age of Global Capitalism

9. **COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)**

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain significant cultural theories
CILO 2	Relate cultural theories to the study of culture
CILO 3	Apply appropriate cultural theories to interpret cultural phenomena from different perspectives
CILO 4	Critically analyze cultural phenomena in daily lives

10. **TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)**

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	Students will: be introduced significant schools of cultural theories through bilingual and interdisciplinary examples in lectures and tutorial
2	examine the dynamic conceptions of culture and criticisms of culture as the product and accumulation of human activities and creativities through discussion
3	make a presentation of a selected topic with concrete examples
4	write an essay on a selected topic

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Mid-term examination	20%	1-3	The mid-term examination is a one-hour written exercise, to test the students' learning in relation to CILOs 1,2 and 3. As the mid-term examination consists of essay type questions, students' ability to present their ideas and arguments in coherent written form is also tested.
Tutorial presentation and discussion	20%	1-3	Students are free to select a topic, collect reference materials and make a group presentation for about 30 minutes and lead the discussion for about 20 minutes; other students have to take an active part in the discussion. Through the process of tutorial, students' ability of CILOs 1-3 will be demonstrated.
Term paper	20%	1-4	The term paper is an extended writing exercise to test students' ability to demonstrate their achievement in learning CILOs 1-4. Students will select a topic from the course contents and write an analytical essay of 2,000 words. Students' ability to present arguments critically and fluently in written form can be tested also.
Final Examination	40%	1-4	Students will answer two open-ended essay-type questions in a two-hour examination. Students' understanding of CILOs 1-4 and their ability to present their ideas and arguments in coherent written form will be tested.

END