

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Introduction to the Humanities

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN1006

3. **No. OF UNITS**

3 Units

4. **OFFERING DEPARTMENT**

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. **PREREQUISITES**

N.A.

6. **MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION**

Cantonese, English

7. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

- To introduce students the Humanities as an area of interdisciplinary and cross-cultural study
- To provide students an overview of the themes and disciplines in the Humanities
- To prepare students for the three-year study of the Humanities intellectually

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

This course is a general introduction to the Humanities by providing students with a basic understanding of the Humanities as an area of study. This course delivers an interdisciplinary and multi-perspective overview of cultural, political, philosophical, and aesthetic factors critical to the formulation of human values and the historical development of the individual and of society. Providing discussion of different themes and disciplines in the Humanities such as literature, the arts, philosophy and cultural studies, this course also introduces the relationship between the Humanities and the university as an idea and an institution.

WEEK INDICATIVE CONTENT

1 Introduction to the Humanities, e.g.

Myth and Origins of the Humanities

Basic interrelationships among science, philosophy and the arts

The meaning of the Humanities and the idea of University

2-4 Themes in the Humanities: Language and Literature, e.g.

On literary forms

Major writers and their contribution to Humanities

Primary literary works in the Humanities and the meaning of human values

5-7 Themes in the Humanities: the Arts, e.g.

Major artists and their contribution to Humanities

Knowledge of the creative skills in producing works of art

Primary art works and the basic aesthetic principles

8-10 Themes in the Humanities: Philosophy, e.g.

- On moral relativism, self-interest, and the greater good
- Major thinkers and their contribution to Humanities
- Philosophical concepts and their expressions in the arts
- 11-13 Themes in the Humanities: Culture, e.g.
 - Culture as products of their context and environment
 - Culture as means of understanding Humanities
 - Social and Cultural conventions of human values
- 14 Humanities as an area of study, e.g.
 - On Interdisciplinarity
 - On Cultural diversity
 - Humanities as technique for Living

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	identify works in the Humanities within selected historical and cultural frameworks
CILO 2	distinguish between the Humanities and other fields of study
CILO 3	examine the basic interrelationships among different disciplines in the Humanities
CILO 4	discuss the importance of the Humanities as an area of interdisciplinary and cross-cultural study and its relevance to our society

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	The weekly lectures will deliver the relevant concepts and issues concerning the indicative learning content
2	Guest lectures regarding different themes in the Humanities will be provided by various members of the Department
3	The lecture-tutorial mode of teaching will be used to facilitate learning through discussion and presentation of materials students receive during lectures
4	Students' active class participation based on attendance, weekly tutorial presentation and in-class discussion is required

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Group Presentation	20%	1,3	Students are required to select a topic, collect reference materials and make a group presentation and lead the discussion; other students have to take part in the discussion. Students' ability of CILOs 1 & 3 will be demonstrated.
Mid-term assignment	25%	2-4	The mid-term assignment is a written exercise to test the students' learning in relation to CILOs 2 to 3. Students' ability to present their ideas and arguments logically is tested.
Term paper	35%	1-4	The term paper is an extended writing exercise to test students' ability to demonstrate their achievement in learning CILOs 1-4. Students' ability to present arguments critically and fluently in written form can be tested.

Participation	20%	1-4	Students' understanding of CILOs 1-4 and their participation and ability to present their ideas and arguments verbally will be tested.
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