

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE TITLE

Human Self-Discovery

2. COURSE CODE

HUMN2006

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

(1) To introduce various theories of human nature to students as an intellectual foundation for reflection on what it is to be human.

(2) To help students to learn how to analyze claims about humanness and to practice their arguments for or against these claims on the basis of comparisons with others' claims.

(3) To explore with students together on particular aspects and problems associated with classical, modern and contemporary theories about humans and human nature in the light of its developments in the history of thoughts gleaned from traditional Chinese and Western philosophies.

8. COURSE CONTENT

This is a critical reflection on human's self understanding as conceptualized in the theories of human nature. Both Chinese and Western traditions will be examined. Emphasis will be given to the delineation of the different dimensions of human nature and its relevance to the modern and contemporary world. There will be weekly lectures (2 hours) and tutorials (1 hour) in which students will present and discuss required readings.

Outline Content:

- I. What is Human? – Who am I?
- II. Classical and New Concepts of Human: Various Emphasis of Human Nature
 - a. The Biological Life (Darwinism & Neo-Darwinism)
 - b. The Rational Life (The Socratic way & Western Scientific Thinking)
 - c. The Moral Life (The Confucian way and Neo- Confucianism)
 - d. The Aesthetic Life (The Daoist way)
 - e. The Irrational Life (The Psychoanalytic view)
 - f. The Enquiry Life (The Existential view)
 - g. The Social Life (The Socialist view)
 - h. The Gendered Life (The Feminist view)
- III. The Human Situation in the Contemporary World (Critique of Technology/Consumption)

9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	explore particular aspects and problems associated with the theories of humans and human nature
CILO 2	describe their living situation in the contemporary environment of information and technology under the light of the classical thoughts and modern thinking
CILO 3	analyze representing theoretical claims about humanness
CILO 4	interpret claims of humanness through comparative studies
CILO 5	apply the critical thinking concerned to ethical issues
CILO 6	utilize classical and modern, Chinese and Western thoughts on being humans and human nature to examine their own natures of being and meaning of their lives under the contemporary context

10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	Students will start the course by practicing philosophical reflection on what is human and continue the discussion through the various topics introduced.
2	Students will practice critical skills in individual topic and identify the related ethical issues concerned.
3	Students will discuss in class and discuss theoretical claims about humanness.
4	Students will compare different claims of humanness
5	Students will discuss the ethical concerns raised in class and relate them to their own social conditions and the human conditions in general.

6	Students will learn to conduct self speculation on the subject of being human from cross-cultural, classical and traditional theories of human and the designed topic wise perspectives.
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11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Tutorial Presentation	30 %	1,2 & 5	Each student will participate in one presentation with clear individual assignment and division of labor. The presentation will test the student's ability to explore particular aspects and problems associated with the theories of humans and human nature and their understanding of their living situation in the contemporary environment under the light of the classical thoughts and modern thinking. It will also assess their ability in applying critical thinking to ethical issues concerned.
Term Paper	30 %	3 & 4	Students are requested to submit a term paper in an appropriate length at the end of the course. The topic should be relevant to the subjects of the course content in terms of the themes or the thinkers introduced. This is to assess their ability to analyze representing theoretical claims about humanness and to discuss them through comparative studies.
Final Examination	40 %	3 & 4	The final examination will test the students' ability to understand the key points of the classical, modern and contemporary theories in Chinese and Western thoughts on being human and human nature introduced in the course. The questions are designed to assess their ability to analyze these representing theoretical claims and to discuss them through comparative studies.

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