

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Chinese and Western Modes of Thought

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN2007

3. **No. OF UNITS**

3 Units

4. **OFFERING DEPARTMENT**

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. **PREREQUISITES**

N.A.

6. **MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION**

English

7. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

This course aims to provide students a clear understanding of the basic differences and similarities between traditional Chinese and Western cultures through comparative study of selected themes in philosophical, religious, moral, and scientific thinking. This course will also analyze issues pertaining to cultural encounters, accommodations, and confrontations in modern and contemporary Chinese history with some emphasis on Hong Kong. This study of cultural interaction will help students acquire a vision of the changing world and develop their ability to adapt to those changes.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

I. Introduction

- a. Methodology of comparative culture analysis
- b. Survey of Chinese civilization
- c. Survey of Western civilization

II. Modes of Thought in Comparative Perspectives

- a. The genesis of the universe and human beings
- b. The concept of God and Tien (heaven)
- c. The concept of nature
- d. Human relationships and social views (may include freedom, love, etc.)
- e. Ideas of life and death
- f. Happiness and utopian thought

III. Cultural Interaction: Topics may include

- a. the debate of modernity and China's modernization
- b. the problem of colonialism (or its legacy) in Hong Kong (related issues could be the problem of cross-culturalism and the debate of postcolonialism in Hong Kong)
- c. Gender issues in Chinese communities

The content of the syllabus is organized in a comparative mode, giving equal emphasis to Chinese and Western cultures. Students will read and write in both Chinese and English.

Although this course focuses on modes of thought, the emphasis on philosophical investigations is supplemented by and complemented with perspectives from other disciplines such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, and literary studies. Since this course studies Hong Kong in relation to modern and contemporary Chinese history, students will be able to explore the meaning of being a Chinese citizen of Hong Kong – an issue which cannot be separated from national, international, and global concerns.

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain the fundamental concepts of cultural comparison
CILO 2	Narrate the characteristics of Chinese and Western modes of thought on selected topics
CILO 3	Compare Chinese and Western modes of thought on these selected topics
CILO 4	Critically discuss the ideological implications of the East-West encounters

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	The students will be: given reading materials illustrating the major concepts of comparative cultural understanding
2	given in depth examinations of the characteristics of Chinese and western modes of thinking on selected topics
3	working on comparing similarities and differences on selected topics between Chinese and Western modes of thought
4	given written task as a research paper on the comparative approach to the cultural relations between China and the West

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Presentation	20%	1-4	Tutorial presentation on a selected topic, with concentration on the characteristics of either the Chinese or Western relevant modes of thinking.
Research Paper	40%	1-4	A long research paper on a selected topic will test the students' ability on analyzing issues with comparative perspectives.
Examination	40%	1-3	The examination will concentrate on the critical discussion on the ideological implications of Chinese and Western cultural encounter. Students are expected analytical and critical ability in the discussion from different perspectives, and should substantiate their arguments with concrete examples.

END