

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

A Lifelong Romance with Films

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN2017

3. **No. OF UNITS**

3 Units

4. **OFFERING DEPARTMENT**

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. **PREREQUISITES**

N.A.

COREQUISITES

N.A.

6. **MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION**

English

7. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

This course aims to provide students a humanistic learning experience through examining selected films which discuss fundamental issues of life and living. Films chosen for the course will be narratives about different life stages – childhood, teenage years, adulthood, old age – and will present students opportunities for discussion of meanings and significance of experiences at these life stages. In the course of examining these films and discussing the various questions related to life and living, students will also be learning about the film medium, such as the different genres and their conventions, how stories are told, and different strategies of representation. Through interactive and experiential learning, the course aims to enhance students' skills of discussion, creative expression, critical thinking, and cultural literacy. It is also hoped that students will form the habit of active participation and become responsible learners.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

The course is designed to arouse students' awareness of the various issues related to life and living at different life stages by examining film narratives depicting those life stages.

I. Introduction:

- a. Films and life
- b. Fiction and fact
- c. Artistic expression and critical examination

II. Beginning: Childhood

- a. Where do we come from?
- b. Meeting the outside world
- c. Making friends

III. Growing Pains

- a. Dealing with physical changes

- b. Finding a hero
- c. Learning the rules of society
- IV. Love and Career
 - a. Man and woman can never be friends?
 - b. The ideal partner?
 - c. Decisions between work and life.
- V. Old Age and Death
 - a. Completion, separation and departure
 - b. Finding meaning

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain the special features and strengths of major genres of films
CILO 2	Describe representation strategies commonly used in films
CILO 3	Reflect their own viewing experience in relation to their daily life experiences
CILO 4	Analyze films in terms of their narrative process, the characterization, and the representation of themes
CILO 5	Explain the complex relationship between film, audience, and culture
CILO 6	Describe the socio-cultural dimension of a film

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	The students will be: given hands-on experience to review and identify major genres of films and discussion; given an overview of major landmarks of film production and how socio-cultural dimensions of a culture are reflected in a film
2	given specially designed in-class TEACHING & LEARNING exercise, and the students' journal will serve as a means for students to practice appreciating the creative possibilities of the language and film art in daily life
3	working in teams for in-class discussion and presentation to practice describing a viewing experience in relation to one's daily life experiences; given step-by-step guidance provided during the lecture and tutorial, and assessment tasks set to give a chance to practice articulating own experiences of viewing (performances, films, visual arts)
4	given academic material concerning critical analysis of films in terms of their narrative process, the characterization, and the representation of themes; given in-class and take-home TEACHING & LEARNING exercises designed for students to get practice in interpreting masterpieces and representative films from different cultural and historical backgrounds
5	given specially designed in-class TEACHING & LEARNING activities to explore the creative dimension of audience response; given academic material which spell out the complex relationship between film, audience, and culture
6	given step-by-step guidance in class and critical comments from instructor regarding presentation and in-class discussion, as well as references to other related cultural products are made in the course of the semester; given journals to encourage students to live a more reflective life in relation to experiences of cultural exposure

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Journal	20%	1-3, 5	The journal is a continuous written exercise throughout the semester. The purpose of journal writing is to allow students to reflect on their own viewing experience in relation to their daily life experiences and provide them a chance to demonstrate their learning on understanding the relationship between film, audience, and culture, identifying major genres and representation strategies in films.
In-class assignments	30%	1-3, 5	In-class assignments can be of various types, including written exercises, short oral presentations and participatory exercises. These assignments are designed to test students' ability to identify the major genres of films, discuss the representation strategies commonly used in films, creatively articulate their own viewing experience, and moreover through discussions to realise the complex relationship between film, audience and culture.
Oral Presentation	30%	1-6	The oral presentation is an exercise to test students' learning in relation to CILO 1-6 depending on the topic chosen by the students.
Term Paper	20%	1-6	This is an individual assignment to test students' learning in relation to CILO 1-6, as well as their ability to present arguments in coherent written form.

END