

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE TITLE

Gender: Theory and Culture

2. COURSE CODE

HUMN2025

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 will introduce students to trends of thought and the basic theories in gender studies. This interdisciplinary introduction will define and explore how gender is constructed socially, culturally, and historically, using examples from various cultures.

8. COURSE CONTENT

This course will begin with a discussion of two foundation issues in gender studies: the rise of the Women's Emancipation Movement and feminism. Selected schools of feminism will be introduced to provide an interdisciplinary perspective. Diverse cultural texts and themes reflecting on gender issues from cultures and societies around the world will enhance the students' discussion of gender and its representation. This special emphasis on the relation between gender and representation will uncover the restraints on human capacity imposed by traditional gender stereotypes and will discover the power of human potential in a sexist society. In order to provide students with an opportunity to reflect on

how these theories and texts pertain to the contemporary world, the course will conclude with the examination of gender issues in concrete social, political, cultural and everyday individual contexts. By examining gender-related issues like discrimination and inequality, students will critically consider what it means to be human and to empathize with human beings and their struggles.

A typical semester will cover the following topics:

- I. Introduction: Women's Emancipation Movement
- II. Feminism and Gender Studies
 - a. The Concept of "Patriarchy"
 - b. Schools of Feminism
 - i. Liberal Feminism
 - ii. Social Feminism
 - iii. Psychoanalytic Feminism
 - c. The Problem of Essentialism
 - d. The Making of Man and Woman
- III. Gender and Representation
 - a. Theoretical Reflections
 - i. Gender and creativity
 - ii. Gender and power
 - iii. Gender and modes of representation
- IV. Themes and Texts (different examples are chosen each semester)
- V. Beyond Representation (Selected topics may include):
 - a. Identity Politics
 - b. Social Movements
 - c. Everyday Life
 - d. Gender Issues in Chinese Communities Foundations

9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Describe, explain and evaluate the major concepts and issues in gender studies
CILO 2	Offer a critical account of the social and political meanings of gender construction
CILO 3	Independently carry out research on topics related to feminism, men's studies and gender theories
CILO 4	Defend differences in behaviour and thoughts in relation to gender and the social conception of gender in daily life practices

10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	The students will be:

	reviewing and critically analyzing the major concepts and issues in gender studies
2	asked to refer critically to historical events, current events, and cultural texts to explain the social and political meanings of gender construction
3	assisted in their planning and execution of research on topics pertaining to feminism, men's studies and gender theories during tutorials by step-by-step guidance
4	aided with carefully designed in-class TEACHING & LEARNING activities to supplement academic reference allowing them to appreciate differences in behaviour and thoughts in relation to gender and social conception of gender in daily life practices

11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Coursework: Term Paper, Oral Presentation, Creative Project, Short Writing Assignments	60 %	1-4	Coursework will test the students' ability to: (1) Produce and present in an organized and clearly written manner an extended piece of writing on gender theory (2) Conduct an oral presentation in a clear and well-organized manner (3) Apply what they have learned in the course to articulate and understand their own experiences and possibly their society
Examination	40 %	1,2	The examination is a two-hour written exercise which will test the students' ability to: (1) comprehend and respond in a logical, organized, and clearly presented written form to questions relating to the major concepts and issues in gender studies (2) evaluate and explain the social and political meanings of gender construction

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