

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	Explain the major concepts and issues in gender studies
CILO 2	Describe 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	Compare 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 in weekly lectures
2	asked to refer critically to historical events, current events, and cultural texts to explain the social and political meanings of gender construction through presentation
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 in weekly lectures and tutorials
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 through tutorial discussions

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Term Paper	15%	1, 2	Produce and present in an organized and clearly written manner an extended piece of writing on gender theory
Oral Presentation	15%	1,2 & 4	Conduct an oral presentation in a clear and well-organized manner
Creative Project	15%	1-4	Apply what they have learned in the course to articulate and understand their own experiences and possibly their society
Short Writing Assignment	15%	1, 2 & 4	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

END