

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE TITLE

Introduction to Western Classical Culture

2. COURSE CODE

HUMN2035

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 introduce the foundations of western culture, i.e. the ancient Greek and Roman culture through understanding and appreciation of selected literary texts. By reading of representative works in epic, drama, poetry, rhetoric, history and philosophy, it helps students comprehend and appreciate the various aspects of classical culture and their significance for the modern western world. It thus serves as an essential part of the western tradition of humanistic education. Relevant dramas and films about ancient Greece and Rome will also be shown in class to consolidate the understanding of these cultures.

8. COURSE CONTENT

- I. Ancient Greek and Roman history and culture: brief introduction
- II. Greek mythology
- III. Greek epic literature: Homer

- IV. Greek tragedy: Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides
- V. Greek philosophy: from Thales to Aristotle
- VI. Greek History Writing: Herodotus, Thucydides, etc
- VII. Roman Literature: Virgil, Lucretius, Ovid, Seneca, etc.
- VIII. Roman Rhetoric and Politics: Cicero, Quintilian, etc.
- IX. Roman Philosophy: Stoicism and ethical philosophy.
- X. Classical Culture and the Modern World

9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain the major elements and features of the Western classical culture
CILO 2	Describe and analyse the Western classical culture based on the reading of selected literary texts
CILO 3	Analyse the representations of the classical world in dramas and films with reference to their knowledge about it
CILO 4	Critically discuss the meanings of classical culture for the modern world

10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	The students will be: introduced materials illustrating the key elements and features of the western classical culture;
2	given in selected literary and philosophical texts of the classical culture for in-depth analysis and discussion
3	required to critically discuss the meanings of the various aspects of classical culture and its representations in dramas and films by oral presentation and tutorial discussion
4	given written task as a research paper on about the meanings of the classical culture for the modern world

11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Oral Presentation	30 %	1-3	Tutorial presentation on a selected topic, with concentration different aspects and topics on the western classical culture;
Long Essay/ Book Report	30 %	2-4	A long research paper or a book report on a selected topic will test the students' ability on

			understand and analyze original literary texts, dramas and films about the western classical world
Examination	40 %	1-4	The examination will concentrate on the critical discussion on meanings of the western classical culture for the modern world. Students are expected to demonstrate analytical and critical ability in the discussion from different perspectives, and should substantiate their arguments with concrete examples.

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