

# HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

The Making of the Contemporary World

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN3015

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 students to the diverse ways of defining modernity from a humanistic perspective and help them develop a critical awareness of our present human condition through a comprehensive view of the formation and the nature of the contemporary world. Emphasis will be placed on the various intellectual, social, philosophical, political, and cultural and technological developments that have transformed the modern world into the contemporary world. The course will integrate notions of modernity from science, politics, religion, philosophy and the arts.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

The course will discuss the nature of the contemporary world, its origins, and the global impact of industrialization. It will then consider the related social, economic, and cultural developments in the modern world. Historical incidents as well as cultural texts like literature and film will illustrate these developments. Students will be introduced to the contemporary political and cultural situations in different parts of the world. Finally, students will reflect on the problems and challenges for humanity posed by the contemporary situation of the world. This course is cross-cultural and interdisciplinary.

- I. The Nature of the Contemporary World
- II. The Global Impact of the Scientific and Technological Revolution
  - a. The Advance of Science and Technology
  - b. Radical Social Change: Industrialization and Modernization
- III. Economic Development
  - a. The Problem of Liberalism and Democracy
  - b. Conflict in Global Politics: Capitalism and Socialism
- IV. The Challenge to Humanity
  - a. Nihilism and the Secularization of Religion
  - b. Art and Literature in the Contemporary World
- V. Questioning Technoculture
  - a. Subjectivity and Environment
  - b. Speed, Cyberspace, Telecommunications
- VI. Conclusion: The Problem of Modernity

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain the various cultural, intellectual, philosophical, political, social and technological developments of the contemporary world, and the fundamental characteristics of modernity
CILO 2	Critically analyze notions of modernity and interpret meanings concerned with the basic features
CILO 3	Characterize the complexities, diversities and multiplicities of the contemporary situation of the world
CILO 4	Present thoughts and ideas, key debates and arguments on the issues of modernity through oral presentations and written assignments
CILO 5	Identify critical engagement in key texts and thoughts through research skills
CILO 6	Evaluate the formation and the nature of the contemporary world

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1-2	The students will be: reviewing and critically analyzing the various cultural, intellectual, philosophical, political, social and technological developments of the contemporary world, and the fundamental characteristics of modernity by weekly-lectures.
3-4	stimulated to refer critically to historical events, current news and various texts to explain notions of modernity and interpret meanings concerned with the basic features through in-class discussion
5	assisted in their planning and execution of research on topics pertaining to issues of modernity during tutorials by step-by-step guidance.
6	aided with carefully designed in-class TEACHING & LEARNING activities to supplement academic reference in the formation and the nature of the contemporary world and engage critically in the transformation of the modern world.

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Assignments	30%	5-6	Assignments and the term paper will test the students' ability to: (1) independently carry out research on topics related to science fiction (2) appreciate and discover differences in the formation and the nature of science fiction and engage critically in the historical developments of the genre
Term Paper	30%	5-6	Assignments and the term paper will test the students' ability to: (1) independently carry out research on topics related to science fiction (2) appreciate and discover differences in the formation and the nature of science fiction and engage critically in the historical developments of the genre
Examination	40%	1-4	The examination will test the students' ability to: (1) identify and explain the major notions of modernity and issues of the contemporary world (2) evaluate various cultural, intellectual, philosophical, political, social and technological developments of the contemporary world, and the fundamental characteristics of modernity

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