

# HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Devil and Culture

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN3035

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**

The aim of this course is to introduce and examine cultural issues related to the idea of the devil and its representations in the western cultural tradition. It will discuss the idea of evil and the devil from the religious-historical and philosophical perspectives, and then look at examples of the representations of the devil from literature, drama and film. Some examples of the Chinese ideas of evil and demons will also be used for comparison. It will help students understand, interpret and make sense of the idea of the evil and the devil and its meaning in the modern world.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

- I. Introduction: good, evil and the idea of the devil
- II. From Satan to Mephistopheles: history of the idea of the devil in the Judeo-Christian tradition
- III. Theodicy and the problem of the diabolical
- IV. Demonic possession, exorcism and witch hunting
- V. Devil in literature: Dante, Milton, Dostoevsky, Thomas Mann, etc.
- VI. Devil in theatre: Marlowe, Shakespeare, Goethe, Arthur Miller, etc.
- VIII. Devil in film: from The Exorcist to Devil's Advocate

- XI. The Chinese ideas of evil and demonology  
 X. Conclusion: the meaning of the devil in the modern world

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Describe the origin and history of the ideas of evil and the devil
CILO 2	Explain the meanings of evil and the devil through philosophical and religious discussion
CILO 3	Analyse the meanings and representations of the devil in different art forms
CILO 4	Critically discuss the meanings of the devil in the modern world

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	The students will: Be given reading materials illustrating the origin and history of the ideas of evil and the devil
2	Be given selected texts related to the religious and philosophical issues of the existence of the devil for in depth analysis and discussion
3	Be required to critically discuss the representations and meanings of the devil in different art forms in oral presentation and tutorial discussion
4	Be given the task to write a research paper to analyze the idea of the devil and its meaning in 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 on the analysis of history and origin of the devil and its representations
Long Essay/ Book Report	30%	2-4	A long research paper or a book report on a selected topic will test the students' ability in analyzing representations of the devil and engaging in religious and philosophical reflections on its meanings
Examination	40%	1-4	The examination will concentrate on the representations of the devil in different historical and cultural contexts and its meanings in the modern world. Students are expected to have analytical and critical ability in discussing the issues from different perspectives, and should substantiate their arguments with concrete examples.