

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Human Beings & Their Imaginary Monsters

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN3036

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 subject aims to study a selection of literary and cinema classics and popular texts which feature monsters created by human beings in modern times. The fascination with the monstrous, as indicated by the variety of monsters created as well as the sustained interest throughout modern times, can be seen as our continuous attempt to discover who we are and how we are related to the world. The studying of these monsters students have created reveals the fears, anxieties and uncertainties human experience in their struggle to self-understanding.

The major aims of the course are:

- (2) To discuss the significance of these creatures in relation to how human beings understand their humanity;
- (3) To enhance students' comprehension of popular cinema and other cultural texts in relation to the exploration of humanity; and
- (4) To improve students' critical and expressive capacity through vigorous discussion.

In this course, students will:

1. Be given an overview of monstrous creatures represented in modern culture;

2. Explore the meaning and significance of these creatures which appear in different texts over the past century;
3. Examine the relationship between these creatures and human beings' attempt to understand themselves;
4. Learn to appreciate critically representations of human fears and desires in a variety of selected texts;
5. Practice the skills of critical analysis and discussion.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

- I. Introduction: What makes us human?
- II. Humanity and its two faces:
 - a. Criminals
 - b. Perverts
 - c. Others?
- I. Sub/Non-human monsters:
 - a. Beasts
 - b. In-Betweens?
- II. Super-human creatures:
 - a. The Case of Science Fiction
 - b. The Case of Celestial Creatures

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Identify the various monstrous creatures as cultural manifestations of human identity exploration
CILO 2	Integrate narrative texts systematically as human attempts at self-understanding
CILO 3	Theorize how the monstrous creatures relate to different human concerns over the ages
CILO 4	Present ideas of human ideals and our fears and dreams in meaningful discussions based on popular literacy and cinematic texts
CILO 5	Express their thoughts and opinions about cultural differences of fundamental human concern clearly and precisely in written, verbal, and other creative forms

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	Students will be: reviewing and critically analyzing various cultural creations of monstrous creatures from different backgrounds
2	reviewing and critically analyzing academic material which discuss such cultural creatures as attempts to understand ourselves
3	reviewing and critically analyzing academic material which trace the development of monstrous creatures in relation to human concerns historically

4	introduced lecture material and engaged in in-class TEACHING & LEARNING activities designed to stimulate thinking about connections between human ideals and our fears and dreams
5	participant in oral presentation, work on a written term paper and a reflective project designed specifically to call for critical response to popular literary and cinematic texts

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Examination	40%	1-6	The examination is a two-hour written exercise, to test the students' learning in relation to CILOs 1-5. As the examination consists of essay type questions, students' ability to present their ideas and arguments in coherent written form is also tested.
Oral Presentation	20%	1-7	The oral presentation is group work. Students are free to choose their own topic, which should demonstrate their learning of CILOs 1-5 and 7, the focus depending on the specific topics they have chosen. This exercise also tests students' ability to put their arguments in coherent spoken and creative form (CILO 6).
Reflective Project	20%	1-6	The reflective project is an exercise to test students' ability to relate what they have seen in our cultures to their own life and self-understanding. They have to create an object which expresses the meaning of the theories learned in class (CILOs 1-5 and 7) in a form they choose, and to illustrate the meaning in a short passage. Thus it also tests the students' ability to express themselves in various forms (CILO 6).
Term Paper	20%	1-7	The term paper is an extended piece of writing to be submitted by each student. They are free to choose their own topic within the framework of the course. This exercise aims to test the students' learning of CILOs 1-5 and 7, while also testing their ability to present ideas critically and clearly in the form of an extended piece of writing (CILO 6).

END