

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Hong Kong Films and Society

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN3056

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**

Cantonese

7. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

This course aims to enhance students' understanding of how Hong Kong films have been shaping and shaped by the local culture and society and the global context of film-making. To this end, this course will introduce a wide range of approaches to film studies and rethink how to apply these approaches to different periods of Hong Kong film development.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

The course will cover the following interrelated themes of the Hong Kong film culture:

- (1) approaches to studying Hong Kong films – ideological criticism, auteur theory, cultural industries, cultural-identity formation, audience studies, historical studies, sociology of culture, and cultural studies;
- (2) the historical development of Hong Kong films;
- (3) the complex relationships between Hong Kong films and local social-cultural change;
- (4) the relationships between Hong Kong and the global film-making process. To explore these interrelated issues, the course will utilize a cross-disciplinary approach, using theories from film studies, cultural studies, studies of media industries and history, and sociology of media and culture.

A typical semester will cover the following topics:

- I. Introduction: approaches to Hong Kong films and society
- II. From pre-war to post-war Hong Kong films
- III. The era of Cantonese and Mandarin films (1950s to 1960s) – the 'realist' Cantonese film tradition; the rise of Mandarin films; the theme of modernization
- IV. The 1970s – Bruce Lee and cultural nationalism; Kung Fu films as a site of discursive struggle; New Wave directors and the emergence of Hong Kong identity
- V. The 1980s and 1990s Hong Kong films – reconfiguration of Hong Kong local identity in Hong Kong films (e.g. John Woo's and Stephen Chow's movies); the emergence of alternative films (e.g. Wong Kar Wai's films); Hong Kong film industry as an exporter of films in the Asian region
- VI. Post-1997 Hong Kong films – thematic and industrial changes; influences of Hong Kong films on the global film-making process; the issue of the decline of the Hong Kong film industry; the rise of other Asian film centres; the 'death' or 'rebirth' of Cantonese film and culture.

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	identify different approaches for studying Hong Kong films
CILO 2	identify different characteristics and themes of Hong Kong films in different historical periods
CILO 3	explain how different periods of Hong Kong films shaped and are shaped by related social and film production contexts
CILO 4	critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to studying Hong Kong films of different historical periods
CILO 5	carry out research on different aspects of Hong Kong films

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1-4	Students will: 1) review and critically analyze key works in Hong Kong film studies 2) review prominent research papers in both Chinese and English 3) be provided with news articles related to the latest development of Hong Kong films
4-5	1) engage in in-class discussion on different themes about Hong Kong films 2) develop a research project about the Hong Kong films, actively conduct literature review for doing the project, and finally write an essay to discuss the research result in a well-organized manner

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Tutorial presentation	20%	4-5	Students have to make an oral presentation on a selected topic to test their ability in evaluating different approaches to studying Hong Kong films and carrying out research.

Discussion	10%	4-5	Discussion in tutorial will test students' ability in explaining and applying the ideas with others.
Term Paper	30%	4-5	Term paper will test students' ability of CILO 4 & 5.
Final Examination	40%	1-4	Essay type questions will be set to test students' ability of CILO 1-4.

END