

# HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Research Methods in the Humanities

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN3065

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 introduces some of the key approaches and research methods distinctive of interdisciplinary Humanities study, and offers step-by-step guidance to students when they conduct their own interdisciplinary research project. Significant texts (in English and Chinese) concerning the approach, content areas, and discussions in the Humanities will be studied. Students will also learn how to plan and conduct a research in the area of the Humanities, as well as the practicalities of writing up the research paper.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

This course introduces the Humanities as the study of human nature and the cultivation of the human mind. The main disciplines in the area of the Humanities will be discussed as the best inventions of the human mind by which we define and understand what it is to be "human."

This course will also introduce methods of doing research in the area of the Humanities, as a demonstration of the interdisciplinary nature of this field. Students will learn the process of carrying out an academic research through actual experience. It is hoped that the semester-long introduction will facilitate students' understanding of the course area as well as acquisition of the ability to think critically and organize logically. Assessment items are

designed so that students have the opportunity to exercise their skills and be responsible for their own learning.

In a typical semester, the topics will include:

- I. Why the Humanities matters?
- II. What is Interdisciplinary Humanities?
- III. Worldview and Interdisciplinary Humanities
- IV. Theory: Who is afraid of theory?
- V. Interpretation 1: Is there an author behind the text?
- VI. Interpretation 2: Defending the horizon of the text
- VII. Imagination: On Sociological and Cultural Imagination
- VIII. Participation 1: On Ethnographical Research
- IX. Participation 2: On Visual Anthropology
- X. Narrative: Story as method
- XI. How to conduct a research 1: On planning
- XII. How to conduct a research 2: On writing the research paper

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Define the field of the Humanities through its interdisciplinary research methods
CILO 2	Carry out a small-scale research project within the area of the Humanities
CILO 3	Present their ideas coherently in the form of writing and oral presentation in their chosen language

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	Students will be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. reviewing and critically analyzing academic articles which define the field of the Humanities</li> <li>ii. reviewing and analyzing university curricula of Humanities in major universities around the world, followed by in-class discussion of the significance and implication of the design of these curricula</li> <li>iii. engaged in in-class discussion of different content areas of the Humanities and explanation of the uniqueness of Humanities study</li> <li>iv. reviewing sample research papers (in both Chinese and English) which demonstrate research methods commonly used in the Humanities</li> </ol>
2&3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. practising the various tasks involved in the planning and execution of a research project within the Humanities</li> <li>ii. provided with lecture material and hands-on in-class practice concerning the basic principles of academic writing and oral presentation</li> </ol>

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment	Weighting	CILOs to be	Description of Assessment Tasks
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Methods		addressed	
Oral Presentation	20%	2, 3	The oral presentation is an in-class exercise for students to practice skills of making a presentation. The assessment is to test the students' ability to plan a small-scale research project within the Humanities, and to present their ideas coherently in an oral presentation.
Term Paper	30%	2, 3	The term paper is an extended writing exercise. Each student has to submit a paper of approximately 4000 words. This assessment item is to test the students' ability to conduct a small-scale research and present their ideas coherently in a written paper.
In-class Exercises	10%	1-3	The interactive in-class exercises will cover various aspects of the understanding of the Humanities as an interdisciplinary area, and the key approaches and research methods. They will also cover the various tasks involved in the planning and execution of a research project.
Examination	40%	1-3	The examination is a 2-hour written exercise. Essay type questions will be set to test the students' ability to define the field of the Humanities, identify and explain the basic skills and procedures of a Humanities research, and to present their ideas coherently in writing.

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