

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Critical Theories I: From Marx to Adorno

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN3066

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 at introducing the theoretical framework of classical critical theories from Karl Marx to early Frankfurt school. It will provide a sound foundation for the students in understanding basic the concern and arguments of these theories and critically reflecting on their relevance and implications for the contemporary world.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

- (i) Karl Marx and Critical Theory
- (ii) Marx's idea of alienation
- (iii) Marx's critique of ideology
- (iv) Marx's dialectic materialism
- (v) Max Weber on Rationality
- (vi) Horkheimer's and Adorno's Critical Theory
- (vii) Critique of Enlightenment
- (viii) Theory of culture industry
- (ix) Critical theory and aesthetics
- (x) Negative dialectics and freedom

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Present the theoretical framework and arguments of the classical critical theories from Marx to Adorno
CILO 2	Write critically about the meanings of the classical critical theories and their relevance for the contemporary world.

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	In the lecture, students will: 1) be introduced the historical background and basic starting point of the classical critical theories 2) be introduced the framework and main arguments of the theories 3) be given selected original texts for intensive reading and discussion
2	In the tutorials, students will: 1) be required to present and discuss some specific arguments or aspects of these theories 2) be required to refer to the original texts in the presentation and discussion of the arguments 3) be required to do critical research about the meanings of these theories and their significance for the contemporary world.

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Tutorial Presentation	30%	1-2	The presentation will test the students' ability in understanding the basic texts and presenting the major arguments of the classical critical theories clearly.
Assignment	30%	1-2	The assignment will test the students' ability in having in-depth discussion and analysis of the major arguments of critical theory, consulting other secondary readings, and reflecting their relevance for the contemporary world.
Final examination	40%	1-2	The examination will test the students' ability to engage in critical dialogue about the validity of the major arguments and their relevance for the contemporary world.

END