

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Asia Discourses

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN4005

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 aims to introduce students to the diverse ways of defining Asia from various perspectives and help them develop a critical awareness to think about "Asia" as a problematic under the global structure of the contemporary world. Though the traditional notion of Asia is a Eurocentric fabrication, Asia is not necessarily grasped as the other in opposition to the West. Emphasis will be placed on how historically Asia is a position without identity, a continent so much de-regionalized, and a place that keeps searching for its definition. Its developments have been intertwined with capitalist globalization, transforming the world as well as being transformed at the same time.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

The course will discuss the changing definitions of "Asia," though the origin of the word is a European invention, and examine how "Asia" can always slip away from the conventional meanings of the area. It will consider the diversity, hybridity, contradiction, and complexity of the concept which is by no means simply geographical. Historical incidents as well as cultural texts like literature, film, and other cultural forms will illustrate these developments. Students will be introduced, through the perspective of a non-State critical regionalism, to intra-national, international and geopolitical issues in the Asian continent. Finally, students will reflect on the problems and challenges for Asia posed by the contemporary situations of the world. This

course is cross-cultural and interdisciplinary.

- I. Intra-Asia Before Europe: Tributary System and Regional Hegemony
 - a. The Myth of Confucian-ization and Buddha-ization
 - b. The Presumption of a Stagnant Asia and the *longue durée* Perspective
- II. Western Imperialism and Imposed Modernization
 - a. Asian Resistance and Overcoming Modernity
 - b. Nationalism and its Discontent
- III. Colonization of the Japanese Empire and Its Asia Dream
 - a. Competing Notions of Asianism
 - b. Racial Politics and Racial Hierarchy
- IV. Cold War Structure and Ideological Struggles
 - a. Asia Under the U.S.'s centric view
 - b. Bandung Conference and the Third World Solidarity
- V. Postwar Cultural Interflows
 - a. Japan Cool, Hong Kong Pop, Korean Wave, Bollywood
 - b. Trans-Asian Cultural Productions
- VI. Reimagining Asia in the (Re-)Rise of China
 - a. Rediscovery of Asia by Asians
 - b. Part of No-Part: West Asia, Central Asia
 - c. Global Scramble in a New Asian Century

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Evaluate the various cultural, intellectual, philosophical, political, and social developments of the notions of Asia, and the historical context against which the concept emerges
CILO 2	Critically analyze notions and politics of Asia and interpret meanings concerned with its characteristics
CILO 3	Characterize the complexities, diversities and multiplicities of the notions of Asia and its positions in the global system
CILO 4	Present thoughts and ideas on the issues of Asia, key debates and arguments through oral presentations and written assignments
CILO 5	Analyze key texts and thoughts in the formation and the development of the Asia discourses through research

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	Students will be: reviewing and critically analyzing the various cultural, intellectual, philosophical, political, and social developments of the Asia discourses, and its historical contexts through lectures
2,3	stimulated to refer critically to historical events, current news and various texts to explain notions of Asia and interpret meanings concerned with its characteristics through in-class discussion and lectures
4	aided with carefully designed in-class TEACHING & LEARNING activities to supplement academic reference allowing them to appreciate the formation and the development of the Asia discourses and engage critically in the transformation of the region and the notion

5	assisted in their planning and execution of research on topics pertaining to issues of Asia during tutorials by step-by-step guidance
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11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Assignments and Presentations	30%	4	Assignments and presentations will test the students' ability to independently carry out research on topics related to Asia discourses
Term Paper	30%	5	Term Paper will test the students' ability to describe and discover differences in the formation and the nature of Asia discourses and engage critically in its developments
Examination	40%	1-3	The examination will test the students' ability to: (1) identify and explain the major notions of Asia and its position in the global system (2) evaluate various cultural, intellectual, philosophical, political, and social developments of Asia discourse, and their fundamental characteristics

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