

# HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Humanism and the Individual

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN4006

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**

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7. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

This course aims to:

- (1) introduce the concept of Humanism, and how this concept can be seen as the basic shaping force of the modern individual course.
- (2) develop critical skills by assessing primary and secondary source readings in history, philosophy, art and literature. Students will develop critical aesthetic skills by studying Renaissance painting, sculpture, and architecture.
- (3) demonstrate to students the intellectual and cultural importance of interdisciplinary approaches to learning.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

This course introduces the concept of Humanism and shows how this is one of the primary factors leading to the formation of the individual as a course. Readings, lectures, and multi-media presentations will trace Humanism to its high point in the Italian Renaissance, when man is regarded as the measure of things.

I. Introduction

- a. Concept of Humanism
- b. Inheritance from the Greek
- c. Renaissance Italy
- II. Man in the Arts and Literature
  - a. Emergence of the Individual
  - b. The Story-telling Self
  - c. The Material vs the Divine
- III. Changes in Politics and Religion
  - a. The Man-governing Utopia
  - b. Princely Tactics
  - c. The Body Politic
- IV. Humanism(s) in Thoughts
  - a. Man as the Measurement
  - b. The Best of Possible Worlds
- V. Developments, Challenges and Criticisms
  - a. The Enlightenment and After
  - b. Anti-Humanism?
  - c. Post-humanism

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Narrate the history and content of main ideas of Renaissance humanism
CILO 2	Critically discuss the main philosophical issues concerning humanism, i.e. human nature, its perfectibility, relation between man and nature and God, etc
CILO 3	Analyse paintings and other art works of Humanism and the image of man reflected in them
CILO 4	Evaluate the relevance of humanism in the modern world

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	Students will be: given introduction of the background and ideas of Renaissance Humanism by weekly-lectures.
2	given introduction of the main philosophical issues related to humanism by tutorial discussions.
3	guided to analyze important works of Humanism with illustration by audio-visual material via in-class discussions.

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Tutorial presentation	30%	1-2	Presentation will test students' ability to analyze selected artistic or literary works of Renaissance with the assistance of audio-visual material, with the focus on the ideas and images of man represented in these works

Long essay	30%	1-3	Long essay will test students' ability to critically discuss a selected topic of philosophical issues of humanism and its implications thoroughly
Examination	40%	1-4	Examination will test students' ability to have critical discussion on the meaning of humanism for modern life and to demonstrate thorough understanding of its meaning and significance by substantiating their arguments with daily life examples

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