

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Body Cultures

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN4007

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**

- (1) To introduce reflections on human bodies in their situated cultures as the existential base of Humanities.
- (2) To introduce the Chinese and various traditional discourses of the body and ends in the examination of the development of these discourses related to contemporary cultural issues.
- (3) To study important and representative body theories and review critically the application and the manifestation of these discourses in their everyday lives.
- (4) To consider body in interdisciplinary and cross-cultural manners.
- (5) To enhance students' knowledge and understanding of human bodies in relation to their cultural contexts.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

The subject introduces theories and cultural phenomena of human body from the perspectives of philosophy, traditions, commodity culture, art and gender etc. Students will study the representative thoughts and theories related to body matters through lectures and interactive discussion. They will also present their reflections of body matters in contemporary life through observation, research, critical review and class discussion.

- I. Introduction: Body Matters
- II. Theories of the Body
 - a) The Christian Idea
 - b) The Greek's Concept
 - c) The Confucian Discourse
 - d) Chinese Medical Point of View
 - e) Body & Gender
 - f) Body & Technology
- III. Representations of the Body
 - a) Bodies in Art & Cinema
 - b) Body & Commodity
- IV. Body and Cities: Bodies living in Hong Kong

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

| | |
|--------|---|
| CILO | By the end of the course, students should be able to: |
| CILO 1 | Explain the cultural significance of body matters and some cultural and critical theories related to body issues |
| CILO 2 | Compare different traditions of body discourses |
| CILO 3 | Examine critical discourses related to contemporary body matters and the development of body discourses in specific cultural contexts |
| CILO 4 | Analyze critically body matters with appropriate body theories and the application of the discourses in everyday lives |
| CILO 5 | Conduct in-depth research on related topics which show heightened awareness of current body cultures |
| CILO 6 | Critically evaluate their bodily existence |

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

| CILO alignment | Type of TLA |
|----------------|--|
| 1 | The course will start the discussion from sharing individual body stories and to initiate students' understanding of the issues from social and cultural perspectives. |
| 2 | Students will learn how to reflect on body issues from the philosophical and cultural dimensions through introduction of traditional and contemporary theories of the body in cross cultural discourses. |
| 3 | Students will be asked to examine bodily existence through representation of the body in art, gender making and commodity through in-class discussion. |
| 4 | Students will be directed to review problematic and ethical issues related to the body under the social context of everyday lives. |
| 5 | Students will work on course research assignment. |
| 6 | Students will reflect on the local situation and the social evaluation of the body in contemporary everyday environment through class discussion and course research assignments. |

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

| Type of Assessment | Weighting | CILOs to be | Description of Assessment Tasks |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------------|
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------------|

| Methods | | addressed | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------|--|
| Tutorial Presentation | 30% | 1-6 | Each student will participate in one presentation with clear individual assignment and division of labor. The presentation will test the student's ability to apprehend the phenomena of human body as discussed in the presentation readings and materials from the perspectives of philosophy, traditions, commodity culture, art and gender etc. The presentations will be assessed on its i) reading capacity, ii) clarity, iii) communication effectiveness, iv) relevance of materials used, v) time management and vi) critical impact. |
| Term Paper | 30% | 1-6 | Students are requested to submit a term paper in an appropriate length at the end of the course. The topic should be relevant to the subjects of the course content in terms of the traditions and perspectives introduced. This is to assess their ability to analyze and discuss representing theoretical claims in body discourses in both traditional and contemporary domains as well as their applications to case studies. |
| Final Examination | 40% | 1-4, 6 | The final examination will test the students' comprehension of the theories in philosophy, traditions, contemporary commodity culture, art and gender etc. introduced in the course in relation to human body and its various representations. The questions are designed to assess their ability to analyze and discuss these perspectives and theoretical claims and to apply them to cases suggested in the questions. |

END