

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Major Thinkers in Humanities

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN4016

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 to introduce the major thinkers in the west who have significant influence in shaping the western mind. These thinkers are selected according to their comprehensiveness of their thought about understanding of human nature, culture, art, history and the meaning of human existence and their significance in western intellectual history. It will introduce to the students the contents of their thought by outlining their major ideas and by reading selected texts. It helps students to understand how these thinkers tackle the big issues concerning humanities, i.e. their views about man, human history, art, culture and the meaning of life, and their relation with the modern world. It aims at introducing the major figures of western thought as factors which shape the western intellectual universe, and thus provides a solid basis for humanities and cultural studies.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

I. Overview: Brief history of western thought

- II. Plato and Platonism
 - i. Plato's Theory of Ideas
 - ii. Plato on the human soul
 - iii. Plato on art and beauty
 - iv. Platonism and its influence
- III. Hegel
 - i. Hegel on the development of Spirit
 - ii. Hegel on history: reason and freedom
 - iii. Hegel's theory of art and aesthetics
 - iv. Hegelian thought and modernity
- IV. Friedrich Nietzsche
 - i. Apollo and Dionysus
 - ii. Nietzsche critique of morality and religion
 - iii. Overman, Eternal Recurrence and Nihilism
 - iv. Nietzsche and modernity
- V. Critical Theory
 - i. Adorno and Horkheimer: Critique of Enlightenment
 - ii. Culture industry
 - iii. Walter Benjamin on mechanical reproduction

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain the basic ideas of the selected schools of thought
CILO 2	Analyze the meaning of these ideas based on the reading of selected text
CILO 3	Critically discuss the issues and problems related to these thought
CILO 4	Critically discuss the implications of their ideas for the modern world

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	Students will be: given introduction to the ideas and thought of the selected thinkers in lectures
2	given in selected texts of these thinkers for in depth analysis and discussion
3	required to critically discuss the implications and problems of these thought in presentation and tutorial discussion
4	given written task as a research paper on the thinkers and their thought and its implication for the reality of the modern world

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Oral Presentation	30%	1-3	Tutorial presentation on a selected topic, with concentration on the major ideas and problems of the selected thinkers
Long Essay/ Book Report	30%	2-4	A long research paper or a book report on a selected topic will test the students' ability on

			understand and analyze original texts and detailed analysis of the relevant thought
Examination	40%	1-4	The examination will concentrate on the critical discussion on the implications of these thinkers and their thought for the reality of the modern world. Students are expected analytical and critical ability in the discussion from different perspectives, and should substantiate their arguments with concrete examples.

END