

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE TITLE

The Art of Creating Stories: Writing and Appreciation

2. COURSE CODE

HUMN4026

3. NO. OF UNITS

3 Units

4. OFFERING DEPARTMENT

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. PREREQUISITES

Remarks: If there is any inconsistency between the HUMN 4026 and WRIT 4007 versions of this syllabus, the WRIT 4007 version shall prevail.

COREQUISITES

N.A.

6. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

English

7. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The course will explore the art of storytelling by discussing the history and role of storytelling in humanities. Followed by introduction to the fundamental elements, i.e. character, point of view, structure, plot, tension and dialogue with selected examples from different genres and forms, a wide variety of fictions, poems and movies will be introduced in this class. Students will learn to appreciate the art of storytelling, and create their own work. At the end of this course, students will develop a series of creative work that show their unique voice by making use of strategies acquired during the process of learning.

8. COURSE CONTENT

This course will introduce storytelling as an important artistic expression in the humanities. It will cover the essential basics of developing a story. Concepts like

characterization, point of view, pace, and dialogue will be explored and discussed in the course, alongside appreciation to diverse voices and expressions of great artists.

The course begins with a general introduction to how storytelling has been developed into different forms, discussing its significance in human history, and exploring the possibilities of storytelling by reading some modern and contemporary creative works.

The craft and aesthetics of storytelling will carry the same weight in this course. Short stories,

novels, poems, script and films will be shown to demonstrate the skills involved, and to provide students an exposure to a variety of texts. Students will also produce their own creative writing which will be later reviewed by other students in detail. It is hoped that regular peer review will give students an opportunity to comment on fellow classmates' works using a critical and constructive approach, and revise their own works. Assessment of creative works will be based on the progress and the final outcome.

A typical semester will cover the following topics:

- I. Introduction to storytelling
- II. The concepts and forms of storytelling
- III. Character development
- IV. Point of view
- V. The study of structures
- VI. Pace and tension
- VII. Monologue and dialogue
- VIII. Metaphor
- IX. Peer review and revision

9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Recognize storytelling as a unique artistic expression of the human mind
CILO 2	Describe the features of different writing techniques
CILO 3	Create and develop their own pieces of writing with the skills introduced
CILO 4	Appreciate the voice and artistic perspective in selected creative works
CILO 5	Develop a vision to critique different art forms involving storytelling
CILO 6	Comment constructively on writings of others

10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	reviewing the role of storytelling as daily practice and artistic expression that are closely related to other fields in the humanities

2	provided with lecture material and hands-on in-class practice concerning the basic principles of storytelling
3	writing their own pieces of creative writing by imitating the techniques examined in class and conveying their own experience and imagination to readers
4	reading closely a wide range of creative texts with an emphasis to look at the aesthetics of the work
5	reviewing and analyzing elements that construct a story, and the traditional and contemporary approaches to narrative
6	participating in peer review exercise to comment and critique creative works produced by fellow classmates

11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Creative Writing Portfolio	40 %	2-5	The creative writing portfolio is a set of writing tasks. Each student has to submit 3 pieces of writing with the drafts during the semester. The writing can be fiction, prose or poem. The finalized writing and the progress will both be assessed. The assessment is to test the students' ability to: (1) convey idea of the story to readers creatively (2) construct a story with the writing principles taught (3) edit and polish their writing by incorporating comments received in peer review
Peer Review	10 %	4-6	The peer review is an in-class task for students to discuss and comment on their fellow classmates' writings. The assessment is to test the students' ability to: (1) review creative works critically (2) provide constructive suggestions in relation to the works.
In-class Participation	10 %	1-5	In the interactive in-class exercise, students can also learn from each other, and the entire learning experience will give the students the ability to: (1) recognize the significance and appreciate the art of storytelling in literature, film art and other forms of artistic expressions (2) explore the possibilities in storytelling and

			narrative.
Examination	40 %	1-5	The examination is a 2-hour written exercise. Essay type questions and creative writing tasks will be set to test the students' ability to: (1) understand and interpret creative texts by examining the basic principles (2) identify and analyze storytelling techniques (3) construct a complete story with basic elements (4) express their imagination and idea to readers.

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