

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Critical Theories II: From Marcuse to Post-Marxism

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN4047

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 at introducing the theoretical framework the Critical Theories from Marcuse, Walter Benjamin to Habermas. It will provide a sound foundation for the students in understanding basic the concern and arguments of these theories and critically reflecting on their relevance and implications for the contemporary world.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

(xi) Modernity, Rationality and Liberation
(xii) Marcuse on one-dimensional man

(xiii) Benjamin on Mechanical Reproduction
(xiv) Habermas' Critical Theory
(xv) Knowledge and Interest
(xvi) Legitimation Crisis
(xvii) Habermas' Communication Theory
(xviii) Althusserian Structuralist Marxism
(xix) Radical Democracy of Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe
(xx) Re-defining Emancipation: Badiou, Balibar, Ranciere

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

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	present the major theories and arguments of the critical theories from Marcuse to Habermas
CILO 2	write critically about the meanings of these critical theories and their relevance for the contemporary world.

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

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	In the lectures, students will: 1) be introduced the historical background and basic starting point of the critical theories from Marcuse to Habermas 2) be introduced the framework and main arguments of the theories 3) be given selected original texts for intensive reading and discussion
2	1) be required to present and discuss some specific arguments or aspects of these theories 2) be required to refer to the original texts in the presentation and discussion of the arguments 3) be required to do critical research about the meanings of these theories and their significance for the contemporary world.

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Tutorial Presentation	30%	1-2	The presentation will test the students' ability in understanding the basic texts and presenting the major arguments of the critical theories from Marcuse to Habermas clearly.
Assignment	30%	1-2	The assignment will test the students' ability in having in-depth discussion and analysis of the major arguments of critical theory, consulting other secondary readings, and reflecting their relevance to the contemporary world.
Final examination	40%	1-2	The examination will test the students' ability in engaging in critical dialogue about the validity of the major arguments of these theories and their relevance for the contemporary world.

END