

## SYLLABUSES OF BROADENING COURSES<sup>1</sup>

### (I) Humanities and Social Sciences Studies

#### **YFIA0003      Art and society (3 credits)**

This course introduces visual and critical skills for interpreting the art of different cultures from both the past and the present. We examine a variety of themes related to the techniques and functions of art, and we study the way art express various moral, social, political, and religious ideas. Students will gain a better understanding of cross-cultural communication and will learn how to analyse the powerful visual cultural of the contemporary world.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken FINE1005 or FINE1006.

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#### **YHIS0006      China and the West in the 18th century - a comparative and thematic approach (3 credits)**

This course examines the strengths and conditions of the East and the West on the eve of their collision in the 19th century. It touches on various aspects from the state of government and economy to daily lives of the people. It is a course that bridges the Chinese and Western history, and is both informative and interesting. It contains invaluable materials for potential teachers, but at the same time is not bogged down by details and facts. A comparative and thematic approach is conducted to incite analyses and interest in history.

Topics include: (1) China in the 18th century; (2) Developments and progress of the West in the same period; (3) Government under the Qing vis-a-vis that of the West; (4) The Manchu emperors reviewed under contemporary western criteria; (5) Qing military system comparing with the Western systems; (6) Qing diplomacy and Western practice of diplomacy; (7) Qing and Western Societies in comparison; (8) Frontier and Bordered peoples - how did the Manchus and the Western states deal with them? (9) Agriculture, Chinese and Western styles; (10) Qing economy in general vis-a-vis the West; (11) Chinese and Western Cultures in comparison; (12) Thought and Culture - the Chinese and Western heritage; (13) Western images on China; (14) Chinese images on the World; and (15) China and the West in perspective.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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#### **YSOC0004      China in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (3 credits)**

This course is divided into three modules. Module 1 (Economic Reforms and their Social Impacts) examines the changes in social organisation of economic production since 1978, in particular, the reform of State-owned enterprises and the development of the private economy. It also looks briefly at the impacts of these changes on different social sectors and groups. Module 2 (Political Economy of China's Reforms) examines the social-political processes that accompany the economic reforms, in particular, the phenomena of uneven development and a divided society. It also explores the attempt to seek an inclusive politics or the relationships between liberalism and the Chinese intellectuals. Module 3 (Leisure, Consumption, and the Media) studies the extent to which China's mass media has continued to serve as the party-state's tool of propaganda. It also analyses whether the assertion of personal taste in consumption and the participation in leisure activities have amounted to the emergence of civil society.

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<sup>1</sup> For details, please visit: [www.hku.hk/student/course/broadening/listing](http://www.hku.hk/student/course/broadening/listing)

**YSOC0001 Crime and punishment in Hong Kong (3 credits)**

This course examines various issues associated with crime and criminal justice in Hong Kong. The course focuses on social responses to criminal behaviour, government policy initiatives designed to control crime, the role of forensic science in criminal investigation and the use of punishment in the administration of criminal justice. Topics include: (1) Nature and extent of crime; (2) Popular images of crime; (3) Criminal law and the definition of crime; (4) Crime statistics and victim surveys; (5) The role of the police and other public agencies in the prevention and control of crime; (6) Criminal investigation and forensic science; and (7) The effectiveness of punishment and corrections.

Note: This course is not available to students who have taken TSOC0001.

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**YFIA0004 Introduction to photography theory and practice (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the principles of contemporary photography theory, and a critical practice of the photographic medium. It explains to students the working of the photographic process, and teach them basic skills in operating the camera, film processing and printing. It gives the fundamental theories about photography in communications, culture and art in the recent decades. Photographs by local and overseas photographers will be shown during the classes, especially those images that ask to think about the nature of photography and its role in society. The course will also discuss how we can assess photographs, both in the popular media and in the art galleries, with critical tools such as aesthetics and cultural theories.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken FINE1007.

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**YLAW0006 IT.law@hku.hk (3 credits)**

While the Internet has been developing rapidly and has intruded into almost every aspect of our daily lives, many legal issues relating to it have not been resolved. This course provides an introduction to the principal legal problems generated by recent developments in information technology, especially the Internet.

Topics include: (1) Architecture and governance of the Internet; (2) Intellectual property issues; (3) Public key infrastructure; (4) Electronic transactions; (5) Privacy in cyberspace; (6) Cybercrime; and (7) Convergence and telecommunications. This course is based on the law of Hong Kong considered in its international context. Wherever possible, examples will be drawn from topical issues and matters of everyday experience.

Note: This course is not available to first-year students, final-year students and BEng(InfoE)/BEng(SE)/ BSc(CSIS)/LLB students.

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**YLAW0007 Law, Enterprise, And Development (LEAD) (3 credits)**

*LEAD* is an interdisciplinary, regionally focused course that examines the mutual effects of business activity and governmental regulation on economic development in Hong Kong, China and East Asia. This requires students to identify, analyse and integrate legal, political, social, commercial and economic factors underlying private and public sector policies in relation to four central themes: (1) The structuring of economic activity; (2) The development of competitive enterprises; (3) The importance of trade and industry to economic development; and (4) Economic development as a component of national development.

Note: This course is not available to LLB students.

**YLAW0002 Law, government and society (3 credits)**

There are four key questions that we would like to address in this course: (1) How societal values may affect the law related to the topic? (2) How the law related to the topic may affect society? (3) How the government may use the law related to the topic rule society? (4) How the law related to the topic may regulate the powers of the government so as to protect individuals in society?

This course examines how law affects the form of government and the development of society. It considers the following issues: (1) The functions of law in society; (2) Rule of law as a condition of development in society; (3) The role of courts and judicial independence; (4) Constitutional rights and their protection; and (5) Selected issues that demonstrates the complex inter-relationships among law, government and society.

Note: This course is not available to LLB students.

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**YMUS0002 Music in society (3 credits)**

This course is designed for students with little or no background who are interested in music as a social activity. Discussion of music in tribal cultures, popular music and its cultural meanings, political music, and social patterns of performance, consumption and communication are explored.

Note: This course is not available to first-year students, music-major students, BA students and students who have taken MUSI2019.

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**YSTA0001 Reading the masters just for fun (3 credits)**

Albert Einstein, Viktor Frankl, Albert Schweitzer, Erich Fromm and Karl Marx. Who are these people? Have you heard about them? Surely, you have heard about Albert Einstein? If not, Karl Marx or Erich Fromm perhaps? What kind of things will you associate these names with? Blackhole for Einstein. Yes, right you are! Communism for Marx. Yes, you are right again! Now have you ever read Einstein or Marx? "Oh, no! I am not a math major. How can I understand relativity?", you would say. Don't worry! Einstein actually wrote on many social issues. In this course we will try to guide you through in reading some selected works from some of the best minds in the history of mankind. We hope we can achieve through this course what Albert Einstein had said to a group of children some 65 years ago: "All this is put into your hands as your inheritance in order that you may receive it, honor it, add to it, and one day faithfully hand it on to your children." Readings include: (1) Albert Einstein: *Ideas and Opinions, part one and part two*; (2) Erich Fromm: *The Art of Loving*; (3) Albert Schweitzer: *The Decay and the Restoration of Civilization*; (4) Viktor Frankl: *Man's Search for Meaning*; and (5) Karl Marx: *The Communist Manifesto*.

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**YAES0002 The American city (3 credits)**

As a centre of growth, power, and cultural diversity, the American city has always occupied a crucial symbolic place in America's vision of itself as a nation. This course tours such important American cities as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, through the media of art, architecture geography, literature, and film.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken AMER2015.

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**YPSY0001 The human dimensions of information technology (3 credits)**

This course is divided into three modules. Module 1 (Positioning yourself in the Network Society) covers the sociological aspects of IT. Topics include: (1) The development of IT in Hong Kong; (2)

Censorship on the Internet; (3) The operation of the media on the Internet; and (4) Information colonialism or globalisation. Module 2 (Be the Web Master – Behavioural Aspects of IT) discusses the social psychological aspects of information technology, *i.e.* the impact of using IT on the user's psychological well-being and interpersonal relationship. The focus is on the interaction between the characteristics of the Internet and the characteristics of the user. Module 3 (Psychology of Human Computer Interaction) discusses how to design the human-computer interface to fit the human user. The discussion will be based on research and theories in cognitive psychology.

Note: This course is not available to BA students, students in the Faculty of Social Sciences and students who have taken TPSY0001.

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### **YMUS0001 The language of music (3 credits)**

This course, which is open to all students, is an introduction to the main elements of music-melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, timbre and articulation-as they occur in traditional, classical and popular musics of the world.

Note: This course is only available to first-year non-BA students who have not taken MUSI1001.

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### **YJMS0002 The media and the art of information literacy (3 credits)**

Information is power. The course is about navigating the print, broadcast and online media for needed information - how to find it, evaluate it and use it. In all fields of study and commerce, professionals gather and process information in order to produce reliable messages to colleagues and clients. The better we learn how and where to find information and how to sort, analyse, and assemble it in accessible forms, the better communicators we become. We rely on it to make decisions in our personal and professional lives and we are empowered by it to influence people and events.

This course examines the information structure of digital media and traditional media - newspaper, magazines, and report. It introduces theories, strategies and methods for gathering information from these sources and the rules and laws governing use of proprietary information from general and specialty sources. Finally, it shows how to compare and evaluate information and how to assemble messages clearly and accurately.

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### **YCHI0001 Traditional Chinese culture (3 credits)**

The aim of this course is to enhance students' understanding of traditional Chinese culture and legacies as well as their competence in problem solving and critical thinking.

Topics include: (1) Theory of the “Interrelation between Heaven and Man” in Chinese culture; (2) Science and material culture in Chinese history; (3) Leisurely pastimes of the gentry; (4) Buddhism and Chinese religious thought; and (5) Christianity and traditional Chinese culture.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken CHIN1207.

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### **YSWK0005 Understanding and preventing ageing (3 credits)**

Do you want to live longer and healthier?

Join this multi-disciplinary course to dispel the myths of ageing while gaining a better understanding of ageing. Through field trip, guest lectures and a group project, this course aims to help students: (a) develop a positive perspective of life and effective ways leading to a prosperous later life, and (b) enrich their knowledge about elderly people and the human services for seniors.

Topics include: (1) Introduction to Gerontology; (2) Understanding the various dimensions of ageing; (3) Theories of ageing; (4) Ways to a healthy and prosperous later life; (5) Services and community resources for seniors; and (6) Anti-ageing plan.

Note: This course is not available to BSW students.

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### **YFIN0001      Understanding financial markets (3 credits)**

This course is jointly organised and taught by faculty members from the School of Economics and Finance, the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, and the Department of Psychology. The objective of this course is to help students acquire an understanding of the practices and functions of various financial markets. Topics include (1) The sources and uses of financial information; (2) The role of various financial institutions; (3) The determinants of interest rates; (4) Investing in securities such as stocks, bonds, options and futures, and foreign exchange; (5) Risk and return tradeoff; and (6) The psychology of financial markets.

This course requires no pre-requisite and is open to all students who are interested in knowing: (1) how to read and interpret the financial figures on the financial pages; (2) what a change in interest rate means to investors and businesses; (3) how to analyse stocks and bonds; (4) the nature and the use of options and futures; (5) how to determine risk and return; (6) some basic statistical techniques for the analysis of securities prices; and (7) the prevailing psychological factors among investors in financial markets.

Note: This course is not available to students who have taken TFIN0001.

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### **YJAP0003      Women in Japan and Hong Kong (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to issues of gender in Japan and Hong Kong, and help them analyse and discuss gender topics through lectures and small group discussions. It gives students an overview of women's position in Japan and Hong Kong in the 20th century in a variety of social settings. This provides the background for subsequent analysis and discussion of men's and women's roles and positions in contemporary society. The course deals with gender aspects of socialisation, education, popular culture, marriage, parenthood, old age, labour market, and public life.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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## **(II) Science and Technology Studies**

### **YSCN0015      Art and physics (3 credits)**

The basic premise of this course is that science and art are both legitimate investigations into the nature of reality; they are different, but complementary facets of a single description of the world. As such, the course traces parallel developments in science and art throughout history from the early Greeks to the modern day, revealing the common creative interplay between the two and the extraordinary way in which art often tends to anticipate the scientific revision of reality. From early Greek sculptors to Andy Warhol, from Aristotle to Einstein, the course covers the major revolutions in science and art, glimpsing the achievements of the leading proponents in each. Special attention will be given to the concepts of space and time and to the use of perspective and colour.

Note: This course is not available to students who have taken PHYS0603.

**YIHP0001 Exercise, activity and you (3 credits)**

This course uses an active learning educational approach to answer some fundamental questions about how exercise and physical activity influence our current lives in Hong Kong and throughout our family's life-span. These questions focus on three main areas so that students develop a broad range of knowledge and skills in being able to make informed decisions about the importance of exercise across the life-span: (1) How can exercise and activity affect me now? (e.g. How do I choose/plan/monitor an exercise program? What are the principles of training? What muscles do I train? How will my body adapt to exercise? How do I manage and prevent injuries? Do special sports foods/drinks really help?) (2) How does exercise and activity affect younger populations (e.g. Will my children really need to be active? How are their needs different from my own? Are there exercises children should avoid?) (3) How does exercise and activity affect older populations (e.g. Should my grandmother exercise? How is Tai-Chi helpful? Can exercise slow down the aging process?). The answers to these types of questions and many similar ones are used to promote critical thinking and discussion in these areas.

Note: This course is not available to BSc(SSLM) students.

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**YSCN0006 Food: facts and fallacies (3 credits)**

This course aims to provide greater understanding of the foods in our daily diet, and to discuss factors affecting safety and healthfulness of food. An outline of the origin, history and processing of foods such as rice, tea, noodles, beer, wine, cheese, yogurt, chocolate, tofu, etc., will be given. Students will find answers to common questions, such as (1) Is red wine really good for you? (2) Is there anything wrong with instant noodles? and (3) Does yogurt promote health? An outline of food safety problems in Hong Kong will be included. Students will learn how to interpret manufacturers health claims for foods and nutritional products, and learn the basics of interpreting clinical trial data.

Note: This course is not available to BSc students following the Food and Nutritional Science programme.

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**YPSY0002 Healthy body, healthy mind (3 credits)**

Is it true, as some people say, that doing exercise helps people live longer? Does it improve feelings of depression? Does it boost our confidence? Does it help reduce high levels of anxiety – would it help combat the effects of examination stress? How might this work? How much exercise is necessary to change our states of mental health? Are there serious risks in doing this exercise? Can some people become addicted to exercise? Who and why? This course helps students understand more about the effects of exercise and assess your own physical and psychological state. It broadens students' knowledge through an analysis of the relationship between exercise and health using scientific research in areas such as sports science, physiology, immunology, endocrinology and psychology as the basis.

Note: This course is not available to first-year students and BSc(SSLM) students.

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**YSCN0007 Hong Kong's natural environment (3 credits)**

Hong Kong is one of the world's pre-eminent cities with a population of 7 million people occupying a small fraction of coastal southern China. It is famous for its skyscrapers and frenetic life. Yet within a few kilometres of the urban areas are jagged mountains, secluded valleys, spectacular rock forms and breathtaking vistas. This course aims to explain our natural environment, from the rocks beneath our feet and the forces that have sculpted them, to the fauna and flora that also call Hong Kong their home. We will take you from 400 million-year-old rocks to tigers on Lantau Island and 200+ varieties of butterfly. We will look at the migrant birds that stop off to refuel in the expanses of the Mai Po Marshes. We will also examine and assess man's impact on the environment to see where we are going wrong and to consider various solutions.

Note: This course is not available to BSc students following the Biology/Earth Sciences/Environmental Life Science programme and students who have taken EASC0101.

**YSCN0011    How chemistry contributes to the advancement of modern technology? (3 credits)**

Topics include: (1) The air we breath and related environmental problems: air pollutants, acid rains, destruction of ozone and interaction of CFCs with ozone layer, chemistry of global warming, responses of chemists to the global crisis; (2) Energy sources and their influence to our society: fossil fuel energy, an introduction to petrochemicals, petroleum refining processes, transformation of energy; (3) Drug discovery: by accident and by design. Examples include aspirin, steroids, sex hormones, and contraceptive pills. Importance of stereo isomers and the story of Thalidomide. Other related products including cosmetics and personal health-care products; (4) The world of plastics: development of plastics and polymers in 20th century and their uses in our daily life - from a plastic bag to electrically conducting polymers. How a computer microprocessor is manufactured by "chemical processes"; (5) Examples of how chemistry is applied to solve problems. For example: collection and analysis of forensic evidence, diagnosis of diseases, analyses of hazardous substances in consumer products e.g. pesticides in vegetables, additives in food, heavy metals in toys, etc.; and (6) Chemistry of the future: drug design, nano-materials, alternate energy sources, using computers to do chemistry.

Note: This course is not available to students who have taken CHEM0003, CHEM1101, or CHEM1502 and students who have obtained a pass in AL/AS Chemistry.

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**YSCN0009    Introduction to astronomy (3 credits)**

This course focuses on the observational aspect of astronomy and the physics of our solar system. Topics include: (1) The basic units in astronomy; (2) The motion of the objects in the sky; (3) Retrograde motions; (4) The celestial sphere; (5) Celestial coordinate systems; (6) Constellations and star atlas; (7) A brief history of astronomy and gravitation; (8) Telescopes and electromagnetic waves; (9) Stellar brightness; (10) The Earth, the tides, the Moon and lunar and solar eclipses; and (11) All planets and other small objects in our solar system. It also provides students with a basic understanding of the relationship of astronomy to life. Students are expected to participate actively in the activities held.

Note: This course is not available to final year students and students who have taken PHYS0001/PHYS0003.

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**YSCN0012    Magnificent universe - chance or design (3 credits)**

This course starts by introducing the concept of anthropic balance, and describes some of the main anthropic balances. Both (i) the designer God and (ii) the anthropic principle plus many worlds explanations, are put forward as reasons for the anthropic universe. Consideration is given to whether or not there is other intelligent life "out there". A lecture on how the first living cell could have arisen from non-living inorganic compounds is followed by two on the neo-Darwinian Synthesis and how it may in principle explain the lack of transitional forms in the fossil record. A critique is given of the neo-Darwinian theory in terms of evidence on the geological time scale and in terms of recently discovered irreducibly complex biochemical systems. The historical development of the teleological argument for God's existence is surveyed as well as its major criticisms by Hume and Russell. The effect of Darwinian thought and naturalism on the argument is discussed. A lecture is given on the new "intelligent design movement" in which information theory is proposed as a means to detect design. Finally the contentious issue of the problem of suffering is dealt with by looking into the Bible and the works of modern theologians.

**YSCN0002 Mathematics: a cultural heritage (3 credits)**

In the words of Hermann Weyl (1885-1955): "[But] mathematics sets the standard of objective truth for all intellectual endeavours; science and technology bear witness to its practical usefulness. Besides language and music, it is one of the primary manifestations of the free creative power of the human mind, and it is the universal organ for world-understanding through theoretical construction. Mathematics must therefore remain an essential element of the knowledge and abilities which we have to teach, of the culture we have to transmit, to the next generation."

This course attempts to elaborate this exhortation through examples gathered from the long history of mathematics, around our daily lives, in other areas of human endeavours and in Nature. Rather than transmitting a body of technical knowledge in mathematics, the emphasis is placed on appreciating, contemplating and discussing about the beauty, the utility and the "Way" of mathematics. The demand on technical preparation in mathematics is minimal, say up to the level of General Mathematics in school, but students are expected to possess some degree of intellectual curiosity and willingness to participate in the reasoning process.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(BSE)/BEng(InfoE)/BEng(ME)/ BEng(MedE) students.

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**YSCN0013 Nuclear energy and the environment (3 credits)**

The course covers the following topics: (1) Natural and man-made radioactivity; (2) Health effects of radiation; (3) Nuclear fission and fusion; (4) Nuclear fuel cycles; (5) Nuclear power plants; (6) Radioactive waste disposal; (7) Nuclear explosions and nuclear weapons; (8) Risk assessment; (9) Accidents and interventions; (10) Radionuclide behaviour in ecosystems; (11) The future of nuclear power-fusion reactors. Emphasis is on non-textbook materials and concerns in our daily life.

Note: This course is not available to students who have taken PHYS0605.

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**YSCN0001 Science and technology in the modern world (3 credits)**

This course consists of 4 components: (1) Life, which deals with topics such as biodiversity, food production and biotechnology in the day to day life of humans; (2) Materials, which takes an historical look at how humans have made use of various materials; (3) Energy, which explains the range of energy sources exploited by man (fossil fuels; plant biomass; nuclear, solar, wind, water and geothermal sources); and (4) Environment, which selects global climate changes, food supplies and pollution as examples of the human-environment interaction

Note: This course is not available to BEng/BSc/BSc(CSIS) students.

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**YSCN0014 Scientific thinking and interesting discoveries (3 credits)**

This course relates scientific thinking to interesting scientific discoveries. It provides an introduction of the logic of scientific thinking that leads eventually to interesting scientific discoveries. The course also emphasizes the appreciation of these discoveries and their implications. Topics include: (1) Investigation on scientific thinking: why and how? (2) Scientific discovery as problem solving? (3) Can we "plan" discoveries? The interesting discoveries to be examined are: (i) Maser, laser and their applications; (ii) Molecular soccerball and nanotechnology; (iii) Transgenesis and animal cloning; (iv) Cell engineering; (v) Einstein and relativity; and (vi) Critical temperature and superconductivity.

Note: This course is not available to BSc students.



**YARC0002 Sustainability in the built environment (3 credits)**

*"If you are not a part of the solution, you are a part of the problem."* - anon.

We spend the vast majority of our lives within buildings and the built environment has a significant impact on the quality of human life and the healthy and sustainable development of society. With increasing environmental crises caused by the extremely dense urban situation, people in Hong Kong are becoming more and more concerned about the present and future living conditions. This course aims to develop better understanding of sustainability in the context of built environment for students in all disciplines and all years. It focuses on raising the awareness of the built world's connection to environmental issues, examining the principles and tools for sustainable architecture and exploring the methods for reducing the environmental impact. The course is designed with an emphasis on interdisciplinary reflection, systems thinking and sharing of students' own experience.

Note: This course is not available to BA(ArchStud)/BEng(BSE)/BEng(ME)/BSc(Surv) students

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**YSCN0004 The gene (3 credits)**

The objective of this course is to expose students to the impact of the gene on modern society. We are at the dawn of a true biotechnology and information technology explosion. It is only a little over 50 years ago that Watson and Crick first described the double helical structure of the DNA molecule initiating the advancement of molecular biology that will result in the complete sequencing of the human genome in the next five years. The completion of the human genome sequencing project will lead to a better understanding of diseases, new diagnostic assays and the subsequent development of therapeutic drugs, leading to a better quality of life. It will also bring about many technical and ethical issues with which the general public will need to deal. The goal of this course is to expose students from all backgrounds to the basic unit of inheritance, the gene, and its impact in various scientific and social disciplines. Topics include: (1) The chemical basis of the gene; (2) Gene evolution; (3) Genes and food; (4) Gene chips; (5) Animal cloning; (6) Genes and disease; (7) Genes and crime; (8) The human genome and computer science; (9) Genes and behavior; and (10) Genetic implications to law and society.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(MedE) students, students who have obtained a pass in AL/AS Biology and students who have taken BIOL0120.

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**YSCN0010 The microbes – friend or foe? (3 credits)**

The aim of the course is to expose students to the impacts of microbes in our daily life. Through this course students are expected to have a better understanding of the existence and the importance of microbes in our modern society. The growth of microbes, the influence of microbes in (1) The natural environment; (2) Causing disease; (3) The development of biotechnology; (4) Medicine; (5) Food production; and (6) Cleanup of environmental pollutants etc. will be included.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(MedE) students, BSc students following the Biology/Biochemistry/Animal and Plant Biotechnology/Food and Nutritional Science/Environmental Life Science programme, BSc (Bioinformatics) students and students who have obtained a pass in AL/AS Biology

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**YPHY0001 Thinking and knowing about your body (3 credits)**

The objectives of this course are: (1) To provide a general background knowledge on the biological functions of the human body; (2) To identify and discuss individual, social, or cultural factors that affect body functions; (3) To communicate the significance of factors that influence body functions. Topics

include: (1) Our body; (2) Smoking in our lung; (3) Exercise your health; (4) The universe in your brain; (5) "We are what we eat"; and (6) The book of life.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(MedE) students.

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### **(III) Culture and Value Studies**

#### **YARC0001 Architecture and design appreciation (3 credits)**

This course aims to introduce architecture and design to beginning undergraduate students. It assumes no previous knowledge or training in the subject and serves to stimulate interests in understanding the relationship between human and the physically designed and built environment. Breakthrough works of various artists, designers and architects, who exert fundamental influences on their contemporaries, will be introduced and analysed so that the time significance of design, and its process may be understood and appreciated.

Note: This course is not available to BA(ArchStud)/BSc(Surv) students and students who have taken ARCH1009.

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#### **YSOC0003 Body, beauty and fashion (3 credits)**

This is not a course about how to use make-up or a guide to fashionable clothing! Instead, it takes students on an exploration of the links between body, beauty and fashion from a variety of perspectives, such as sociology, social policy, economics and psychology. These various perspectives together offer students a way of seeing how individual level issues (like self-esteem, stigma and identity) shape and are shaped by community level issues (mass media), societal level issues (gender) and global level issues (globalisation and westernisation). This course examines these issues in a variety of formats through guest lectures, mass media analysis, video clips, workshops and so on.

Note: This course is not available to students who have taken TSOC0003.

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#### **YCHI0003 Chinese language and visual rhetoric in cyberspace (3 credits)**

This course aims at honing students' Chinese language skills to communicate effectively in the cyberspace at individual, corporate and global levels. It helps students enhance their writing and communication skills through emerging communication technologies. Custom-built to teach students to use Chinese language as a new vehicle for the expanding global communication network, this course covers: (1) Communication theory; (2) Chinese literacy for the cyberspace; (3) Information configuration principles for Chinese; (4) Reflections on integrating and presenting digital media as rhetorical activities; and (5) Mastery of IT knowledge.

Note: This course is not available to final year students and BA students.

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#### **YPSY0004 Christianity and society (3 credits)**

This course aims to give students a fundamental understanding of how Christianity is related to various academic disciplines. Being a major factor in the shaping of the Western civilisation and society that we have inherited today, Christianity has far-reaching impact on human history, dividing the historical calendar by its very entry. Its influence can be seen in many aspects of our society today, including ethics, scientific development, human relations, as well as ideological foundations of law and civil rights.

In this course, students will be invited to actively participate in lectures that will examine the relationship of Christianity with the social sciences, physical sciences, ethics, and law. Critical thinking, developing one's own opinion and thoughts through dialogue, reading and research, and appreciation for different perspectives will be encouraged.

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### **YMED0002 Confronting moral dilemmas in the modern world (3 credits)**

This brief course introduces students to an ethical discourse of some global, societal and personal issues which acutely impinge on the moral consciousness of the contemporary mind. In a pluralistic modern society such as Hong Kong, each citizen as a moral agent will develop his or her own ethical framework based on her own particular set of values and world-views when confronted with a moral dilemma, and yet corporately as a whole, somehow, we all have to reach a certain moral consensus or "equilibrium" together. Lecture themes include: (1) Methodological approaches to Ethical Thinking and Moral Decision-making; (2) Rich-Poor Polarity: 1st/3rd world, over-population, globalisation, individualism, community, social justice, charity; (3) Ecological Crisis: anthropocentrism, economic development, technological progress, consumerism; (4) Reproductive Technology, Cloning, Stem Cells; (5) Family: marriage, divorce, family violence, "intentional" single family, "same-sex" family; and (6) Death and Dying: physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, voluntary suicide, legitimate homicide (capital punishment).

Note: This course is not available to final year students.

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### **YEDU0001 Critical thinking (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to the skills of analytical and critical thought for application to their university studies and everyday lives. The course aims to develop students' skills of critical questioning and reasoning, logical argument, analysis, problem solving, essay writing, and critical thinking in conversation and presentation. Students will engage practically in class with problems requiring critical reasoning, as a preparation for some of the more difficult questions, choices, and challenges that face them in their university studies, in their future career at work, and in their everyday lives.

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### **YARC0003 Culture, place and architecture (3 credits)**

The goal of architecture is, by definition, the implementation of meaningful and significant design ideas. The purpose of this course is to introduce non-architecture undergraduates to the ways in which architecture fulfils the varied and conflicting demands to be beautiful, functional, economically respondent, environmentally efficient and philosophically meaningful. As we progress in and develop with technological resolve and sophistication in the 21st century, the environment of design in architecture has become increasingly complex. To understand design ideas in architecture today requires the incorporation of the engineer, the artist, the geographer, the economist and the anthropologist. The implementation of any design of the built form has become today the masterful resolution of conflicting demands and causes. Especially with the facile development of technology in the manifestation of design, the tradition with which we evaluate culture and place, within the context of architecture is directly challenged. This course is designed to clearly and comprehensively introduce to students the differing elements in the consideration and metamorphosis of architecture from idea to construction.

Additionally, there is also an emphasis in the way in which students, as users and future clients of architecture, can play an active and constructive role in the design of buildings. Content of the course will maintain a broader scope from which the different facets in the study of architecture will be discussed and maintained. Topics regarding technology, the environment, conservation and preservation within the context of Hong Kong and China are important components of this course. They will be discussed by specialists and guest lecturers.

Note: This course is not available to BA(ArchStud)/BSc(Surv) students.

**YPHI0002 Culture, value and the meaning of life (3 credits)**

Human life has value. Why? What is value? Do values come from nature? From biology? Or from history? We transmit cultures, histories, and social practices. What makes such cultural transmission possible? If we have different cultures, do our lives have different values? Do cultures create our values? Why do we value art? Why is death bad? These are some of the questions we might explore in this course. Topics include: (1) Nature, value and human life; (2) Religion, values and the meaning of Life; (3) Cultures in conflict; (4) Cultural evolution and Memes: how do cultures transmit themselves; (5) Nihilism: how is it possible for us to "lose" meanings or a sense of meaning?; (6) Doctors, patients; and the meaning of death; (7) Zen and the meaning of life; (8) "Why do you want to die?" A question for bicentennial man; and (9) What is death? Should we fear it?

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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**YHIS0005 Exploring Hong Kong history through Hong Kong streets (3 credits)**

Hong Kong's interesting and – to many students – largely unknown local history is explored in this course by an unusual but highly rewarding means – discovering the fascinating background of its districts, their streets and the institutions, businesses and people who form part of them.

This course gives students wider exposure to numerous issues related to the specialised study of local history; there is also the opportunity to explore oral history methodology in some depth during their research project. Students will participate in field trips to older urban districts of Hong Kong, such as Western, Yaumatei, Shaukeiwan and Wanchai to illuminate the subject background to lectures and seminars. Later they will complete a research project on a particular street in an area of their choice, outlining its own history, points of interest and the past and present relationship that exists with the surrounding neighbourhood. On completion of the course, students will have gained a broader understanding of Hong Kong society, by focusing on smaller details that many might otherwise have never observed.

Note: This course is not available to final year students and BA students.

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**YJMS0003<sup>2</sup> Gangs, gangsters and the media (3 credits)**

The course explores the nature of infamy and the impact on culture and myth of selected media's coverage of gangs and gangsters. Worldwide, representations of wrongdoing and wrongdoers are staples of newspapers, magazines, books, television and film. Spectacular crimes by notorious gangs and gangsters become folkloric and celebrated even as society condemns the conduct and punishes the offender. Case studies based on articles, books and films illustrate how media portrayals of gangs and gangsters in Hong Kong and the United States reflect local values even as they sometimes distort the "truth" of events.

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**YLAN0001 Introducing Germany and the Germans (3 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to contemporary life in Germany. Topics include: (1) The German language; (2) Outline of German history; (3) Geographical diversity; (4) Housing and urban development; (5) Federalism; (6) Germany's political system; (7) Festivals; (8) Family; (9) Youth; (10) Education; (11) Arts and music; (12) Leisure time and sports; (13) Protection of the environment; (14) Women and society; and (15) Cultural representations in advertising. All lectures will be conducted in English.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken LANG0002.

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<sup>2</sup> Subject to the Senate's approval

**YJAP0001 Introduction to Japanese culture (6 credits)**

This course covers different aspects of Japanese society and culture. Topics includes: (1) the language Japanese people use and the way they communicate; (2) the historical and geographical backgrounds of Japan; and (3) Japanese literature, arts and religion. Then it goes on to look at the family, socialisation and education, work and popular culture in contemporary Japanese society, before finishing with a discussion of its present-day government and politics. All the discussions on each aspect of Japanese society will be put into a comparative perspective with Hong Kong society.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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**YMUS0003 Introduction to musics of the world (6 credits)**

This course examines a range of music from throughout the world including North America, Southeast Asia, West Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe. Genres such as salsa and zydeco (United States), gamelan gong kebyar (Indonesia), bawo and highlife (Ghana), son and rumba (Cuba), samba (Brazil), flamenco (Spain), fado (Portugal), and rembetika (Greece) are examined in their social, cultural and historical contexts. The course also discusses issues raised by cross-cultural inquiry. Practical performance in a musical ensemble is included in the course.

Note: This course is only available to first-year non-BA students who have not taken MUSI1004.

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**YLAW0005 Law in context: current legal issues (3 credits)**

Controversial legal issues are regularly subjects of press coverage and public attention. Recent examples include: the issue of right of abode for mainland born children of Hong Kong permanent residents, the national flag desecration case, and the regulation of "Falun Gong".

This course considers selected topical legal issues of importance to Hong Kong people, and helps students develop an understanding of how law affects them in their daily lives. The course content will vary, depending on current developments in Hong Kong.

The objectives of this course are to: (1) encourage active learning and critical thinking; (2) enhance awareness and understanding of topical legal issues of importance to Hong Kong people and of how law may affect their daily lives; (3) develop ability to analyse these current legal issues from different perspectives; (4) develop one's own perspectives in looking at these current legal issues; and (5) develop communication and articulation skills.

Note: This course is not available to LLB students.

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**YBUD0001 Money, love and morality (3 credits)**

Despite the advancement of science and technology, we find that human nature remains basically the same. The increase in material comforts, medical cures and communication techniques finds us no happier than people living a hundred years or a thousand years ago. We are still troubled by our feelings of greed, anger, jealousy, anxiety, fear, stress and insecurity. This course takes money and love as examples to demonstrate how the ancient wisdom of Buddhism and other religions can give us insight to these problems and attempts to help us to work out applicable solutions. Topics include : (1) Importance of economic development for spiritual life; (2) Wise way of earning and spending money; (3) State management of economy; (4) Limitation, defects and disadvantages of wealth; (5) Material wealth and spiritual wealth; (6) Harmful effect of possessive love, emotion and lust; (7) The true meaning and value of love; (8) How to practise and extend loving-kindness towards parents, friends, classmates, community and so on.

**YPHI0004 Paradoxes and puzzles (3 credits)**

A paradox is a piece of reasoning that leads from a statement that is apparently true to a conclusion that is apparently crazy, yet each step of the reasoning seems perfectly good. For example (a very old example), start with the statement that every statement is either true or false. Now consider the statement "This statement is false". We can easily reason that, if this statement is true, it must be false. Equally, we can reason that, if it is false, it must be true! These paradoxes are not like the "brain-twisters". They are not easy to solve, and, by thinking about them, we can learn some very fundamental lessons about how we think and reason.

Typically, a session will begin with the lecturer describing a paradox, after which students will get into groups to try and work out solutions. Then we shall all come together, and the various proposals will be discussed. The emphasis will be on coming up with good, original ideas, brain-storming and presenting thoughts in a clear, logical ways.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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**YCAS0001 The way we grew up – a personal study of Hong Kong culture and identity (3 credits)**

In the age of rapid globalisation, it is essential to position Hong Kong as the node of political, economic and cultural interactions of the world. A detailed and thorough evaluation of her history and society is, thus of the greatest importance. A multi-disciplinary assessment of the portrayal of Hong Kong will provide students with a creative picture of the future course in the 21st century, and evaluate the Hong Kong identities they possess. This course should be perceived as groundwork for advanced learning. We believe that theoretical analysis of Hong Kong history and culture has to be complemented and supported by historical accounts. This course accordingly incorporates various research insights and approaches to ensure a far-reaching portrait of history and society.

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**(IV) Information Technology Courses****YITC1001 Foundations to information technology (3 credits)**

This course aims to introduce the basic knowledge of Information Technology including concepts of computer hardware, software, PC systems, the Internet and World Wide Web (WWW), multimedia, legal aspects of software, multilingual computing, and information search strategies. The objectives of this course are: (1) to enable students to use some software packages and some common communication tools; (2) to enable students to appreciate the impact of Information Technology on teaching, learning, and research; and (3) to prepare students to survive and excel in the digital University environment and the modern society.

Note: This course is not available to students who have successfully completed YITC1002.

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**YITC1002 Information technology proficiency test**

This test comprises two parts. Part A takes the form of multiple choices, true or false questions, and fill in the blanks. Part B is a set of task-based questions, for example, questions requiring students to read and reply to an email; search information on the Internet; typeset a document, etc.

The test syllabus covers similar topics as that in YITC1001, for example: (1) Basic concepts in computer hardware and software; (2) Use of simple application software such as word processor; and (3) Use of common communication tools such as email and newsgroup. The whole test will last for two hours.

Note: This course is not available to students who have successfully completed YITC1001.