

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

### (I) Humanities and Social Sciences Studies

#### **YARC0007 Architecture of theories — appreciation of integrative approach to the built environment (3 credits)**

This is an integrative course for the appreciation of architecture taking on inter-disciplinary perspectives. Selected topics from physics, philosophy, psychology, technology, Buddhism and meta-physics will be discussed in terms of their effects and meanings with architecture. Possible subjects for review will be existentialism, modernism, symbolism, doctrine of dependent origination, feng shui, digital technology and space-time. The general history of development of philosophy, science and architecture will be covered. An overview for architecture with the doctrine of dependent origination will also be disseminated.

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

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#### **YCAS0003 China and Asia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (3 credits)**

This course reviews contemporary relations between China and other countries of Asia. The lecture series begins with a brief review of Chinese foreign policy since 1949. China's relations with the major countries and/or regions of Asia are then examined. Drawing upon very well developed relations the co-ordinators have with local consulates and the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), a number of diplomatic staff and NGO representatives will be invited to discuss with students the issues they face when dealing with China.

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#### **YFIN0002 Current Asian finance: issues, ideas and practices (3 credits)**

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the most important issues in Asian financial markets, to develop their interest and knowledge in areas related to business and finance in Asia (with a focus on Hong Kong), and to give them hands-on experience in writing reports and presenting analytical results.

Note: This course is not available to BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE) or students who have taken FINA0003.

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#### **YEDU0004 Cyberethics and cybercrime (3 credits)**

Today's rapidly changing world is faced with the proliferation of information on computer networks, especially the Internet. While this proliferation provides advantages in access to information, it has also raised issues of intellectual freedom and property, copyright, privacy, increased commercialisation of information, security, criminal activity and censorship. This course investigates these ethical issues focusing on the tensions between individual rights and societal needs. Hong Kong information policy will be discussed. Evaluating information on web pages, strategies for communicating on the Internet and policies to handle issues of access will be emphasised.

Note: This course is not available to BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE).

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

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

This is an inter-disciplinary, regionally focussed course that examines the mutual effects of business activity and governmental regulation of economic development in Hong Kong, China and East Asia. It will require 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 prosperity of trade, industry and economic development; and (4) Economic development as a component of national development.

Note: This course is not available to BBA(Law), BEng(CivE-Law), BSocSc(Govt&Laws) or LLB students.

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

This course will address: (1) What do we want the Law to achieve in society? (2) How societal values affect the Law? (3) How the Law affects society? (4) How the government uses the Law to rule society? (5) How the Law regulates the powers of the government? (6) How people react to the Law?

It examines how law affects the form of government and the development of society, and discusses issues such as: (1) Law in Action: how law operates and functions in Hong Kong society; (2) Nature and functions of law; (3) Law and social values; (4) Rule of law; (5) Law and order; (6) Law and rights; (7) Law and equality; and (8) Law and justice.

Note: This course is not available to available to BBA(Law), BEng(CivE-Law), BSocSc(Govt&Laws) or LLB students.

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**YLAW0008 Love, sex, marriage and family: a multi-disciplinary approach (3 credits)**

Intimate interpersonal relationship takes up much of our personal time and resources, and is an indispensable building block of human society. It promises laughter but is sometimes tainted with tears. The family is where wounds are healed, but also a place where social and physical ills are transmitted. Has something gone wrong? Teachers from three disciplines (psychology, law and medicine) as well as guest speakers will present a multi-disciplinary analysis of the relevant issues. Our postmodern society's prevalent emphasis on rugged individualism and hedonism will be compared with a more relational value system. A forum immediately after each lecture allows students to ask questions, form their own educated opinions, and receive feedback from teachers in various academic subjects. Reading assignments will be taken from the psychological, legal, and medical literatures. While no prior knowledge in these fields is assumed, students are expected to take their own initiatives in learning outside an area that they are most comfortable with.

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**YSOB0002 Managing modern business (3 credits)**

This course is designed for students who wish to gain some business knowledge outside their own disciplines, and for those who aspire to become successful managers and leaders in the modern business world. In addition to the coverage of some basic principles of management, the course also focusses on more contemporary issues in managing a successful business in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Topics include: (1) Basic principles of Management: the role of a manager and a leader; (2) Organisational culture and motivating employees; (3) Organisational strategy; (4) Managing in a global environment; (5) Managing changes and innovation; (6) Effective team building; (7) Becoming an entrepreneur; (8) Managing diversity and organisational learning; and (9) Managerial ethics and social responsibility.

Note: This course is not available to BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE).

**YHIS0004 The evolution of the business environment in the PRC and Hong Kong (3 credits)**

Today, China is in the process of becoming one of the great economic powers in the world. Yet only thirty years ago the People's Republic of China was dismissed as economically unimportant. What has happened to bring this situation about? The growth of the business environment in China since 1949 will be studied and the trends and issues will be identified. With Hong Kong's future now firmly linked to the Mainland, this course will help students understand and appreciate business opportunities as they unravel over time.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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

The course is about navigating the print, broadcast and on-line media — how to find, sort, evaluate and use information. It examines the information structure of digital media and traditional media —newspapers, magazines and reports. It introduces theories, strategies and methods for gathering and assessing information from these sources. Finally, it shows how to compare and evaluate information and how to assemble messages clearly and accurately.

Note: This course is not available to BJ students or students who have taken JMISC0101.

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**YECC0001 Understanding narratives (3 credits)**

Narratives are important as they underlie all literary genres such as stories, poems, and plays, as well as artistic outputs like songs, movies and even pictures. An understanding of what narratives are will enable students to appreciate and enjoy the literary and artistic works that are easily accessible to them.

This course has three objectives: (1) to introduce students to the nature of narratives and the function they serve in stories, poems, plays and movies; (2) to cultivate in students an interest for reading, and the ability to appreciate imaginative works; and (3) to provide students with an opportunity to write narratives in the form of short stories, poems, as well as short plays and to perform them.

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**YJAP0004 Understanding popular culture in Japan and Hong Kong (3 credits)**

This course begins with an introduction of various socio-cultural theories on popular culture. It examines the development of popular culture in post-war Japan and Hong Kong including shopping malls, comics and animation, fashion, TV, pornography, food, popular music and the Internet. Mass consumption of popular culture in Hong Kong and Japan is not happening in a vacuum. This course, therefore, directs students' attention to the socio-cultural contexts in which such mass consumption takes place. It investigates the selection, repackaging, and distribution of Japanese popular culture in Chinese societies in Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Mainland China. The contribution of Japanese popular culture to the formation of contemporary Hong Kong society is also examined.

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 BSc(Bioinformatics) students or students who have taken PHYS0603.

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

This course aims to provide greater understanding of 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 is 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? (3) Does yogurt promote health? An outline of food safety problems in Hong Kong is also 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 or students who have taken BIOL0002.

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### **YSCN0017 From Sherlock Holmes to modern forensic science (3 credits)**

This is a general course in forensic science that introduces the scientific basis for solving crimes. It is designed to introduce some of the specialised fields of forensic science, to learn the fundamental principles of science and technology upon which they are based, and to apply them to a number of suspicious situations and criminal cases. Aspects of forensic science involving the examination of physical, chemical and biological items of evidence will be explored. Students will then be able to understand forensic analysis of substances such as glass, soil, hair, ink, bullets, gunpowder and drugs. The methods used in the analysis of alcohol, carbon monoxide and drugs, and in the characterisation of blood and other body fluids will be discussed in the context of the principles of biochemistry, toxicology, pharmacology and serology.

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### **YSCN0016 Games and the mathematical mind (3 credits)**

This course introduces elementary and important mathematical concepts and treatments through interesting games and problem-based illustrations. Topics include: (1) Mathematical induction; (2) Pigeonhole principle; (3) Probability; (4) Elementary game theory; and (5) Recursive and iterative methods. With the advance of the Internet and computer software such as EXCEL, games such as MARK SIX, SIM, NASH and NIM are now tackled through computation with vivid information, pictures and simulation. This excursion is a collection of games and problem-based illustrations into mathematical topics that often arise from ordinary walks of life. The mathematics in the movie "A Beautiful Mind" will be explained in particular.

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(CE), BEng(EComE), BEng(EE), BEng(EESE), BEng(IETM), BEng(InfoE), BEng(LESCM) or BSc(Bioinformatics) students, or BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE).

**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 increase one's self-confidence? Does it help reduce high levels of anxiety – would it help combat the effects of examination stress, for example? How much exercise is necessary to change our states of mental health? Are there serious risks in doing this exercise? Can some people be addicted to exercise? Who and why? This course discusses all these beliefs that link keeping fit to good health. It helps students understand more about the effects of exercise and offers some assessment of their physical and psychological state in the form of workshops. Topics include: (1) Exercise, anxiety and depression; (2) Effects on physical health; (3) Effects on longevity; (4) Eating disorders and body image; (5) Fitness addition; and (6) Aggression in sport.

Note: This course is not available to first year students or 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 formations and breathtaking vistas. The aim of this course is to explain the natural environment, from the rocks beneath the feet and the forces that have sculpted them, to the fauna and flora that also call Hong Kong their home. It will take students from 400 million-year-old rocks to tigers on Lantau Island and 200+ varieties of butterfly. Migrant birds that stop off to refuel in Hong Kong's wetlands will also be visited. The class will also examine and assess man's impact on the environment to see where human beings are going wrong and to consider various solutions. The course objective is that students from all disciplines will, on completing the course, have a better understanding and appreciation of their local environment.

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

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**YSCN0018 How things work (3 credits)**

This course is self-contained and comprehensive, starting from fundamental knowledge of physics and progressing to their daily applications. Prior knowledge in physics is not essential. Daily appliances are explored with simple and lucid explanations. The course covers the working principles of a wide range of objects and phenomena, including magnetically levitated trains, mobile phones, laser printers, CD and DVD players, rocket-launching, tape recorders, air purifiers, microwave ovens, vacuum cleaners, photocopiers, and AM and FM broadcasting. The material of this course will constantly be updated to include the most recent developments in modern technology *e.g.* the wide applications of nanotechnology.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(CE), BEng(ComE), BEng(EE), BEng(EESE), BEng(InfoE), BEng(MedE), BSc, BSc(ActuarSc) or BSc(Bioinformatics) students, or students who have taken PHYS0607.

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

This course focusses on the observational aspect of astronomy and the physics of the 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 co-ordinate 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 the solar system.

Note: This course is not available to BSc, BSc(ActuarSc) or BSc(Bioinformatics) students, or students who have taken PHYS0001.

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### **YSCN0019 Magnetism and life (3 credits)**

Magnetic materials have entered our everyday life in big and small ways: not only as household products such as cassette tapes, magnetic necklace and funny colorful magnets on our refrigerator door but also as big magnetic levitated trains. Magnetism also has great impact on science and technology. Nobel prizes were awarded to the study of biological molecules by Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) techniques, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Superconductors in the last two years. This course introduces students to existing and emerging technologies related to magnetism. It will provide students with an understanding of the basic principles of these technologies including their latest applications. Topics include: (1) Magnetic materials and related products in everyday life; (2) Superconductivity and magnet; (3) Magnetic Resonance Imaging; (4) 3D molecular structures by NMR; (5) Magnetic Levitation; (6) Applications of NMR in chemistry, medicine and drug discoveries; and (7) Magic bullet: medical treatment with magnetism.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(EComE), BEng(EE), BEng(EESE) or BEng(MedE) students.

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### **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 the class has to teach, of the culture to be transmitted, 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(CE), BEng(CivE), BEng(CivE-Law), BEng(Civ-EnvE), BEng(EComE), BEng(EE), BEng(EESE), BEng(IETM), BEng(InfoE), BEng(LESCM), BEng(ME) or BEng(MedE) students, or BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE).

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### **YSCN0020 Microbes and society (3 credits)**

There are thousands of visible plants and animals and thousands of invisible species of microbes. Bacteria have been living on Earth for billions of years and they can be found almost everywhere. They indeed form part of human life and affect society significantly. A lot of microbes including fungi have been used to improve health and living conditions. Viruses such as influenza, SARS and the bird flu, on the other hand, disturbed society drastically. Special topics will be discussed in each session and students are expected to solve some take-home problems related to the special topics. Students are also expected to work in groups for a special project to be presented at the end of the course.

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

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

This course provides non-science students with general concepts of the principles and applications of various aspects of science and technology in this modern society. Through this course, students are expected to increase their scientific literacy and ability to approach scientific materials intelligently. The course consists of four components: (1) Materials, which takes a look at how humans have made use of various materials; (2) Energy, which explains the range of energy sources exploited by Man (fossil fuels, plant biomass, nuclear, solar, wind, water and geothermal sources); (3) Life, which deals with cell division (growth), reproduction, genes and genetics, biotechnology, cloning and evolution; and (4) Universe, which takes students to the cutting edge of science and a discussion on the birth and death of stars ("blackholes").

Note: This course is not available to BEng, BSc, BSc(ActuarSc), BSc(Bioinformatics) or BSc(CSIS) students, BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE), or students with a pass in AL/AS Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

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**YSCN0021 Scientific or fiction? (3 credits)**

The course provides a critical analysis of the genre of science fiction and involves a reading/viewing study of a selection of science-fiction stories and films. Analysis of the scientific premises of the source material will involve discussion of such topics as the nature of time and the possibility of time travel, astrophysics and the strange properties of black holes, dark matter, neutron stars, the possibility of extraterrestrial life, the second law of thermodynamics and entropy, Einstein's theory of relativity and the possibility of exceeding the speed of light.

Note: This course is not available to students who have taken PHYS0602.

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**YSCN0022 The chemistry of history: How aspirin, morphine and other molecules changed the world (3 credits)**

Acetylsalicylic acid, also known as aspirin, is among the most widely used chemical drugs for treating illnesses and injuries. Morphine, the addictive constituent of opium, is the molecule that played an essential role in the history of Hong Kong. These are just a few of the molecules that have been responsible for important changes in world history. Some molecules sparked wars (morphine), some have fueled wars (trinitrotoluene), and others determined triumph or defeat, as in the use of tin to make buttons that contributed to the failure of Napoleon's European campaign in 1812. It is fascinating to see how these molecules with their structures and properties determined the course of world history. This course will examine the history and chemistry of molecules behind the explorations, inventions and aggression in some of the best and worst chapters of human history, and their relevance to us today.

Note: This course is not available to BSc students following the Applied and Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry/Chemistry, Chemistry or Chemistry with Management programme.

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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. Human beings 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 with. The goal of this course is to expose students

from all backgrounds to the basic unit of inheritance, the gene and its impact on 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 behaviour; and (10) Genetic implications to law and society.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(MedE) students, BSc students following the Animal and Plant Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Biology, Environmental Life Science or Food and Nutritional Science programme, BSc(Bioinformatics) students, students with a pass in AL/AS Biology, or students who have taken BIOL0120.

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### **YPHY0001 Your life style and your health (3 credits)**

This course aims (1) to provide a general background knowledge on the biological functions of the human body; (2) to identify and discuss lifestyle factors that affect body functions; and (3) to communicate the significance of life-style factors that influence body functions. Topics include: (1) Healthiness and sickness: your body at a glance; (2) Smoking, air pollution and your lung (3) Healthy heart; (4) Exercise: keeping good health; (5) Balance diet: What should we eat; and (6) "We are what we eat".

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

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

### **YCAS0004 A carnival of gods — a study of contemporary religions (3 credits)**

As a fundamental aspect of human experience, religion is an ignored yet important part of contemporary Hong Kong society. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, this course gives a brief but critical overview of the World Religions, and influential religious, pseudo-religious and spiritual phenomena; and discusses various theories about the meaning and the role of religions in society. The World Religions or influential religious institutions will present their own worldviews. This course is designed not to advocate religious beliefs or any particular religious traditions but to foster an appreciative and critical understanding of the religious beliefs in Hong Kong.

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### **YARC0005 Architecture and the creative industries (3 credits)**

This course aims to introduce architecture and the design related disciplines (including design, fashion, advertising, art, antiques and crafts, film and video, game and software, music, performing arts, publishing, television and radio) — generally referred to as Creative industries — to beginning undergraduate students. They assume no previous knowledge or training in the subject and serve to stimulate interest in understanding the creative process in these industries. Students will be required to attend departmental guest lectures as well as other events related to architecture and the creative industries as prescribed by the course co-ordinator.

Note: This course is not available to BA(ArchStud) or BSc(Surv) students, or students who have taken ARCH1009, ARCH1010, ARCH1011, ARCH1012 or YARC0001.

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### **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. A variety of themes related to the techniques and functions of art will be studied and the way art expresses various moral, social, political, and religious ideas will be examined. Students will gain a better understanding of cross-cultural communication and will learn how to analyse the powerful visual culture of the contemporary world.



Each lecture focusses on one major issue, with examples drawn from both Western and non-Western art, past and present. Tutorials provide hands-on experience interpreting actual art objects on campus and in Hong Kong. Readings are tailored to each issue, and handouts and images needed for revision are available on-line. No previous knowledge of art history is expected.

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

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

This course takes students on an exploration of the links between body, beauty and fashion from a variety of perspectives, ranging from sociology, social policy, economics, psychology and medicine. 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 using guest lectures, mass media analyses, video clips, problem solving activities and discussion.

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 proficiency to enable them to communicate effectively on individual, corporate to global levels in cyberspace. It helps students sharpen their writing and communication skills with the help of the emerging communication technologies. Custom-built to equip students with the necessary skills to use Chinese language as a new vehicle for the expanding global communication network, this course covers: (1) Communication theory; (2) Chinese literacy for 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 or BA students.

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

Christianity is a major factor in the shaping of the Western civilisation and society that people have inherited today. The impact of Christianity on human history is far-reaching, dividing the historical calendar by its very entry, and its influence can be seen in many aspects of our society today, including ethics, scientific discoveries and cross-cultural missionary movements.

In this course, students are expected to actively participate in lectures, open discussions and tutorials that examine the relationship of Christianity with psychology, law, arts, and natural sciences. Critical thinking, developing one's own opinion and thoughts through dialogue, reading and research, and appreciation of different perspectives are encouraged.

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

This course is designed (1) to provide students with an approach to identify, analyse and adopt a considered position in the moral issues of the contemporary world; (2) to familiarise students with some ethical principles, both in the Western and Asian traditions, as references and tools to achieve the first goal; and (3) to expose students to a handful of actual ethical issues currently experienced globally and locally, including but not limited to issues of polarity of rich and poor, environmental/ecological abuse, drugs, youth and family, health care, bio-technology, as well as moral standards for professionals such as business executives, doctors, scientists, lawyers and judges. Topics include: (1) Methodological

approaches to ethical thinking; (2) Traditional moral wisdoms of the East and West; (3) Making moral choices and resolving dilemmas; (4) World poverty, population, and the rich and poor gap; (5) Economic globalisation, consumption, and the ecological crisis; (6) Prices, patents, profits and the corporate world of business; (7) Marriage, family, youth and the loss of the “personal” world; (8) Crime, punishment, capital punishment and the world of justice; (9) The media and the world information; (10) The hi-tech world of biotechnology: genes, cloning and stem cells; (11) Death and dying: for the unborn to those who have lived too long; and (12) Disabled, retarded and the incurable: how to suffer in a world without compassion.

### **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 life. It 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 at work, and in their everyday lives.

A principal objective of this course is that students will think and write better. They will be able to develop their own arguments, critically evaluate the arguments of others by using sound and non-entrenched reasoning, be willing to consider multiple perspectives, and be sceptical.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(CivE-Law) students.

### **YARC0006 Cultural sustainability: understanding Hong Kong's cultural heritage and its conservation (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to the field of architectural conservation. Students will learn about the wide range of built heritage in Hong Kong, Macau and other regions of Southern China as well as Southeast Asia. They will be introduced to established systems for determining the cultural significance of heritage places. After reaching this understanding, students will be introduced to the general framework for carrying out conservation work, with emphasis on the importance of community involvement and the influence of local legislation and international charters.

Students will go on to explore the principles for carrying out responsible conservation work, especially when the objective is adaptive reuse (the adaptation of old buildings for economically viable new uses). In addition, they will be introduced to the practicalities of doing repair work on traditional buildings.

This is a course designed for students interested in how our cultural heritage resources in the built environment are managed for the socio-cultural and economic benefit of our generation and those to follow. This is also a course designed for interactive learning not only in the classroom but also through field trips.

Note: This course is not available to BA(ArchStud) 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? People transmit cultures, histories and social practices. What makes such cultural transmission possible? If there are different cultures, do lives have different values? Do cultures create people's values? Why art is valued? Why is death bad? These are some of the questions that will be explored in this course.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

**YMUS0005 Film Music (3 credits)**

The subject matter of this course is music and sound in American Films (primarily feature length films from Hollywood and independent film makers). Film music and sound will be examined from two perspectives: technology and aesthetics. Technology concerns everything about how sound is recorded, manipulated, and processed within the context of making films. It concerns not only film audio technology *e.g.* how sound is recorded on film, digitally or optically, but also the impact of non-film audio technology on film *e.g.* the invention of synthesisers. Aesthetics concerns the role of sound and music in film. Does the music support the action of the film, or does it subvert it? Is the music a reflection of the director's "hidden" thoughts, or does it simply underscore character emotions? Questions of effective and non-effective film scoring and sound effects will also be addressed. The central theme is how the two aspects influence each other. For example, how advances in technology expand what is possible aesthetically, or, on the other hand, how aesthetic choices determine or even limit technological choices. The physical and psychological nature of sound, using films as examples, will also be examined. This provides access to technical terms from acoustics and music *e.g.* decibel, timbre, orchestration, sample rate, which will be used to describe and analyse sound and music in films.

Note: This course is not available to first-year students or BA students.

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**YPHI0005 Food for thought — the philosophy of food (3 credits)**

People spend a lot of time eating, thinking about what to eat, and working for long hours so that they may have something to eat. The course will look at the diverse philosophical issues that relate to food, be they political, moral or metaphysical. Through the focus on food, students will see how philosophy can bring fresh perspectives and a deeper understanding to everyday life issues. Topics include: (1) Food appreciation and global hunger — Is it immoral to indulge in good food when other people are suffering from hunger and famine? (2) Issues concerning animal rights — Do we violate the rights of animals when we use them for food? Can modern meat farming be morally justified? (3) Food and drugs — What makes something a drug instead of food? Should marijuana be prohibited when alcohol is legal? (4) The value of bodily pleasures — Is the enjoyment of food of little value compared with "higher" intellectual pursuits? (5) The aesthetics of food — How should we decide which dish or cuisine is better? Are food preferences relative and subjective? (6) The metaphysics and objectivity of culinary experiences — Can science explain something as subjective as the conscious experience of taste and smell? (7) Food and globalisation — What are the implications of fast food chains? What about GM food? Should we allow commercial firms to acquire genetic patents of plants and animals? (8) Food, identity, and power — How is food related to culture and identity? What are the implicit assumptions in the portrayal of food consumption and preparation in the popular media?

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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**YECC0002 Gay identity: an exploration through world literature (3 credits)**

The course aims (1) to expose students to a wide range of world literature about love and desire through the perspective of same-sex relationships; (2) to help students understand current academic theories of the historical diversity of same-sex orientation; (3) to help students' think critically about same-sex relationships across cultures and time; and (4) to help students come to informed analyses of the nature of same-sex relations in particular, and minorities' status in general. Topics include: (1) Questionnaire to check: What do you know about minorities and minority rights? What do you know about gay people? Theories of gay sexuality: how sociologists currently classify same-sex orientations across culture and time — the empirical evidence (NOT the critical theory)? (2) Ancient Greece and Rome — a Golden Age for gay men? (3) The glory of Islam — was medieval Islamic society less harsh toward same-sex relations than Christian Europe? (4) Medieval and Renaissance Europe — all persecution and heresy? (5) China and Japan before Ming and Edo periods — okay to be gay? (6) From Edo Japan to the arrival

of Western ideas — from paradise to hell? (7) Qing China — did the West export persecution? (8) European enlightenment — from hell to ... what? The limits of reason? (9) The West in the 19<sup>th</sup> century — from Enlightenment to control of sexuality, while love of friends flourishes. (10) Primitive societies — can they help us make sense of our religious and literate society taboos? (11) Creation of the modern gay identity — from medicalisation and witch hunts, through Stonewall to Pink Money. (12) Globalisation — how AIDS has had one beneficial side-effect — the creation of a global gay identity by pinpointing the suffering of a minority, and how this has led to a loss of diversity before it was even explored.

**YBUD0002 In search of happiness and the meaning of life (3 credits)**

Happiness and fulfilment are something that most of us long for, but unfortunately, cannot get most of the time. How can people be happier? People are all alive, but are they living? Is there a meaning to life? These are both philosophical and practical questions that people would need to deal with one way or another during the course of our life. This course will try to approach these questions in practical ways that will eventually enhance the quality of one's life. Students will be invited to explore ways to comprehend existence, learn to manage emotions, and search for the meaning of life and understand death.

**YSWK0006 Knowing the unknown: an introduction to death, dying and bereavement (3 credits)**

Death and dying are inevitable truths in life. This course thus aims to provide students with a chance to unseal the secret of death and dying, especially those who regard "death" as a taboo. Through the interplay of health psychology, cultural, philosophical and religious perspectives and the adoption of the action-experiential approach used by the Association of Death Education and Counselling (ADEC), this course provides a multi-disciplinary platform for reflection and discussion on the issues of life, death, dying and bereavement. Furthermore, it is a course tailored-made to focus on the understanding of death related issues in the local context. Comprehensive and interesting topics, such as views of different religion and philosophy on death and dying, psychological needs of terminal patients, funeral arrangement, forensic medicine, suicide and personal losses, will be included. Students are encouraged to develop a better understanding of death and dying in the Chinese culture by incorporating research and western literature with personal and local experiences. Besides regular classroom activities, an experiential workshop on grief and bereavement as well as a multi-religion forum on death and its transformation will also be organised.

**YEDU0003 Sexual and gender diversity (3 credits)**

At birth every child is labelled "boy" or "girl". Most people grow up accordingly, learning to think of themselves as either male or female, and developing many of the characteristic culture deems appropriate for their sex. Most adults search for partners of the other sex and, sooner or later, settle down with one. The class will look at some of those who take different developmental paths: (1) homosexuals who are attracted to members of their own sex; (2) cross-gendered people who behave much like members of the other sex, some desperately wanting to be of that sex; (3) those men and women who are attracted to more than one partner; and finally (4) those who, despite society's strongest reproach and threats of punishment, find themselves attracted to children. Besides looking at what people feel about themselves and who they like, some of the more unusual ways in which some people actually express their sexuality will also be examined.

The class will look at sexual and gender diversity, examine what it is to fall into one of these groups, and examine how society responds to the challenges that they pose.

**(IV) Information Technology Studies****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), legal aspects of computing, computer applications and information search strategies. The objectives of this course are: (1) to introduce students to basic Information Technology knowledge; (2) to arouse students' interest in Information Technology by aligning the syllabus with their needs; and (3) to promote lifelong learning through the adoption of Problem-Based Learning.

Note: This course is not available to BA(ArchStud), BBA, BBA(Acc&Fin), BBA(IS) or BBA(Law) students, or students who have successfully completed YITC1002.

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**YITC1002 Information technology proficiency test**

The two-hour test covers the same topics as those in YITC1001 but students are expected to self-study for the test. Guidance will be provided if necessary.

Note: This course is not available to BA(ArchStud), BBA, BBA(Acc&Fin), BBA(IS) or BBA(Law) students, or students who have successfully completed YITC1001.