

## 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 and its theories with various disciplines. Selected topics from physics, philosophy, psychology, technology, Buddhism and meta-physics will be discussed in their effects and meanings with the appreciation and theories of architecture. Possible subjects for review will be de Stijl, minimalism, high-tech, existentialism, modernism, symbolism, doctrine of dependent origination, feng shui, digital technology and space-time. The general history of developments in philosophy and science with architecture will be discussed. An overview of architecture with the doctrine of dependent origination will also be taken.

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

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#### **YSOC0006. Asian heritages: symbolism and values (3 credits)**

This course explores the symbolic and social values behind the various types of cultural heritages among the Asian people. Cultural heritages include the built environment as well as the living cultures of the people such as religion, ethno-music and food. The course will focus specifically on the intersection of the physical and the emotional aspects of cultural heritages and their significance to the various cultural groups, and explores how cultural heritages are appropriated, transmitted and transformed by different agencies such as the State, Schools, Religious Organizations and local society, to cater to their own purposes. Cultural heritages from various East and Southeast Asian countries and ethnic minority groups will be examined, including the heritages of the Japanese, Chinese, Tibetans, Uighurs, Mongolian, Indonesian, Filipino, Laos and Vietnamese societies. The course adopts a multi-disciplinary approach and will be delivered by teachers from the Faculties of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, as well as guest lecturers.

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

This course aims to create an interactive learning environment where students combine traditional knowledge acquisition with engaging in contemporary international relations debates, with a core focus on China. The abilities developed during this course will teach team building, negotiation skills in a cross-cultural environment, an awareness of an important aspect of China's international citizenship, and creativity and resourcefulness in problem solving and research. A policy/real world aspect will enhance students' capacities to apply what they learn in the workplace and will encourage further interest in international relations and regional studies. These objectives will be met via a programme of assessment designed to stimulate the diverse skill sets of students.

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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, develop their interest and knowledge in areas related to business and finance in Asia (with a focus on the greater China), and give them hands-on experience in writing reports and presenting analytical results. This course will enhance student interests in Asian finance and finance

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

related topics, and most importantly, give them a competitive edge over other students in analyzing real world issues logically and presenting the findings convincingly. Topics include: fundamentals of financial markets; new trends in Asian financial markets (active IPO and mergers and acquisitions); governance in Asia; Asian financial crisis; and financial market perspectives.

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

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**YHIS0007. Hong Kong's prehistory and early history — a multi-disciplinary approach (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to Hong Kong's pre-colonial past as it is known from archaeology, ethnography, clan histories, historical linguistics and documentary history. The human occupation of the territory from 5000 B.C. is described with reference to the broader context of southeast China, and the subsequent cultural evolution as it unfolded under the increasing influence of Chinese civilization, culminating in the conquest of this area in the Ch'in-Han period. However, the principal focus is on adaptive subsistence strategies, man-land relationships, continuities and local evolution, and, for the later periods, ethnic identity and relationships with other ethnic groups.

The early historical period is described with particular attention to the conflicts and tensions in the assimilation of the local aboriginal population during the first millennium A.D. The final chapter of Hong Kong's early history witnessed the settlement of the territory by the Cantonese, Hoklo and Hakka ethno-linguistic groups in the Sung, Ming and Ching eras.

An emphasis running through the chronological review will be the methods of investigating the past which are characteristic of each discipline, and their limitations. Students also have the opportunity to handle artifacts and documents, and to visit sites and museums.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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**YECC0003. Language and the Internet (3 credits)**

This course explores the role and forms of language in the Internet and the effect of the Internet on language. The Internet is a technological revolution, but also a linguistic revolution (Crystal, 2001) and this course will challenge students to examine how the Internet is used for communication. This course will foster a greater awareness of the nature of language and Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) through developing "electronic literacies" (Warschauer, 1999).

In the first 6 weeks, students will be presented with a set of core readings including chapters from a core text, academic articles and authentic communications on the Internet. Students will use these texts, and examples of authentic "netspeak" as a foundation for an academic dialogue conducted online. In the final weeks of the course students will be challenged to apply their understanding of linguistic change when they break into presentation groups of 3-5 to develop a Communications Technology Presentation which is presented synchronously online. This culminating presentation will give students an opportunity to investigate a new or emerging technology from a linguistic perspective.

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

This course addresses 6 key questions: What do we want the Law to achieve in society? How societal values affect the Law? How the Law affects society? How the government uses the Law to rule society? How the Law regulates the powers of the government? How people react to the Law?

The course will examine how law affects the form of government and the development of society, and consider issues such as: law in action: how law operates and functions in Hong Kong society; nature and functions of law; law and social values; rule of law; law and order; law and rights; law and equality; and law and justice.

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

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**YEDU0006. Learning through movies and mass media (3 credits)**

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the complexities of the relationships between culture, popular culture and mass media. Using the portrayal of librarians in mass media as context, the importance of evaluating and understanding information is introduced. Students will be introduced to the nature and purpose of the information professions and will consider ways of communication and improving reflective practice in their own future plans.

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**YLAW0008. Love, marriage, sex 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 3 disciplines (psychology, law and medicine) as well as guest speakers will present a multi-disciplinary analysis of the relevant issues. 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 initiative in learning outside an area that they are most comfortable with.

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**YSRP0001. Stress, depression and suicide (3 credits)**

Stress is a common experience in today's fast, changing world. It is well-documented that there is a strong association between stress, physical and psychological well-being. A recent large scale local research involving 10 local tertiary institutions found that more than 20% (i.e. more than 1 in 5) first-year tertiary students show signs of moderate to extremely severe degrees of depression and stress. As future leaders of society, it is important that university students possess intellectual as well as emotional competence to meet various challenges. This course utilizes a holistic wellness model to give a comprehensive overview of stress, depression and suicide. Topics include: relationship between stress, depression and suicide; risk and protective factors; personality variables; interpersonal, physical and spiritual dimensions of stress, depression and suicide; stress-reduction techniques; and many more. Using lectures, self-assessment inventories, reflection exercises, experiential activities, group discussions, and observation task/surveys/interviews, this course aims to enhance students' awareness and self-understanding relating to stress and well-being. An important objective of the course is to enable students to build up resilience against possible stressors so that they can lead a healthy and effective life.

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

The course is about navigating the print, broadcast and online 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 examines how to compare and evaluate information and how to assemble messages clearly and accurately.

Note: This course is not available to BJ students and students who have taken JMSC0101.

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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 3 objectives: to introduce students to the nature of narratives and the function they serve in stories, poems, plays and movies; to cultivate in students an interest for reading, and the ability to appreciate imaginative works; and to provide students with an opportunity to write narratives in the forms 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 then examines the development of popular culture including department stores, comics and animation, fashion, TV, pornographic culture, food, popular music and the Internet in post-war Japan and Hong Kong. Finally, this course will investigate the transfer and reception of Japanese popular culture in, and the impact on, Chinese societies in Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Mainland China.

After taking this course, students should be able to understand major socio-cultural theories on popular culture; the production, circulation, and consumption of popular culture in Japan and Hong Kong; the social significance of popular culture in Hong Kong; and Japanese popular culture in Chinese societies.

The group project entails the collection of materials, of which most is in Chinese, on Japanese popular culture in Hong Kong. Students who enroll in this course should have a sufficient level of proficiency to read in Chinese.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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**YSWK0007. What will I be in 2046? (3 credits)**

This multi-disciplinary course aims to provide students with a better understanding of positive ageing and the effective ways of leading a prosperous later life. It is a fundamental course for students who are interested in studying ageing and older people as well as preventing ageing. The course will be delivered through regular and guest lectures, a field trip, a group project and presentations. It is anticipated that by the year 2046, when these students reach the young-old category, they will appreciate the significance of developing a positive attitude towards getting old.

Topics include: introduction to gerontology; understanding the various dimensions of ageing; theories of ageing; ways to a healthy and prosperous later life; anti-ageing plan; services and community resources for seniors; and self-awareness and myths about ageing.

Note: This course is not available to students who have taken YSWK0005.

**YMUS0006. World music: sound, sentiment and society (3 credits)**

This course introduces listeners to the wealth of popular musics created by the world's peoples. The rich cultural diversity expressed in world musics transcends geographic and linguistic boundaries as the global village becomes smaller. This course will explore the meaning of the sounds, the associated emotions and the social histories that give rise to a variety of musics from outside the mainstream of Western popular music. Recordings, video and live performance will be used to examine selected case studies. Tango from Argentina, Flamenco from Spain, Salsa and Son from New York and Cuba, Rai from Algeria, Qawwali from Pakistan, Soukous from Paris, and Cajun, and Zydeco from the USA, are important and accessible styles whose popularity have increased dramatically over recent years. This course helps students develop ways of responding, thinking and communicating their ideas about these musics through listening, discussion and writing. The course is open to all students and no technical musical knowledge is required. Resources of the Music Department Library and various internet links are employed.

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, this 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, this 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 and students who have taken PHYS0603.

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**YTSC0002. Creativity in practice (3 credits)**

This course discusses the role of creativity in economic and social development and reviews some of the creative ideas that have influenced our daily life. Creativity as a success factor for enterprises is elaborated. Students are guided to appreciate the availability and development of technology and knowledge as a basis of realizing creative ideas. Environmental and ethical considerations with respect to creativity are discussed.

Hands-on experience is emphasized in this course. Four to five students work as a group to design and build a project under the guidance of an instructor. Through this experience students enjoy the fun of being creative and understand the process of realizing creative ideas in real life. Each group has to present its design and share the experience with others. In addition to gaining better understanding of creativity, students have a chance to enhance team work and communication skills.

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

**YARC0008. Designing for disability (3 credits)**

The consideration of limitations to human physical abilities brought on by the effects of age, injury, disease or heredity have fundamental impacts on all aspects of society in terms of economics, social services and building management, as well as upon the design process. This course is designed to enhance students' awareness of disability issues in social and facilities management, as well as in the planning, briefing and designing of buildings. The current situation regarding social, statutory and design criteria in connection with all aspects of disability are covered by lectures, seminars and field trips. More particularly, the implications of human physical limitations are considered by all branches of design discipline specialization (from graphics, through product and fittings design to architecture and building construction).

Topics include: the effects of limitation on mobility and physical capacity; wheelchair dimension design; ergonomics of design for wheelchair use; designing for the blind and tactile paths, partial sight and colour-blindness; the effects of hearing loss on understanding and the tactics that may be employed to alleviate such conditions; building services design that addresses "Universal" design (covering lifts, lighting and other installations); aspects of material and air-borne allergy; and current legislation regarding designing for the disabled and barrier-free access.

Students will be required to follow up these sessions with on-site visits and written-up reports based on current built examples and environments. Student design projects related to this course would have to demonstrate an appreciation of all aspects of disability design issues in their design projects.

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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, etc., will be given. Students will find answers to common questions, such as Is red wine really good for you? Is there anything wrong with instant noodles? 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.

Note: This course is not available to BSc students following the Food and Nutritional Science programme, students following the Food and Nutritional Science major/minor, and students who have taken BIOL0002.

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

Forensic science is the application of scientific principles to criminal and civil laws within a criminal justice system with the goal toward the establishment of guilt or innocence. This course is designed to introduce some of the specialized 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. Following an introduction to the concepts of basic chemistry, analytical chemistry and organic chemistry, students will understand the forensic analysis of substances such as glass, soil, hair, ink, bullets, gunpowder and drugs. Forensic biology introduces biological knowledge and laboratory techniques to criminal and civil investigations as well as to the identification of unknown individuals. Focus is on evidence gathering and preservation; identification and comparison of body fluids and hair; fingerprints; present-day DNA finger printing techniques; databases; and legal issues. The methods used for the analysis of alcohol, carbon monoxide and drugs, and in the characterization of blood and other body fluids will be discussed in the context of the principles of biochemistry, toxicology, pharmacology and serology. Problem-solving, hands-on casework example and the interpretation of results will also form part of the course.

Note: The sub-class in the first semester is open to students who have not taken/passed AL/AS Biology, Chemistry or Physics while the sub-class in the second semester is open to students with a pass in AL/AS Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

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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 southern coastal 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. The course will look at migrant birds that stop off to refuel in Hong Kong's wetlands and also examine and assess man's impact on the environment to see where human beings are going wrong and to consider various solutions. On completing the course, students from all disciplines will 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, students following the Biology, Earth Sciences, Ecology and Biodiversity or Environmental Protection major/minor, and students who have taken EASC0101.

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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 course will teach, of the culture we have to transmit, to the next generation."

This course will elaborate on 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, emphasis is placed on appreciating, contemplating and discussing 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(ESComE), BEng(EE), BEng(EESE), BEng(IETM), BEng(InfoE), BEng(LESCM), BEng(ME) and BEng(MedE) students, and BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE).

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

Man lives together with thousands of plants and animals that can be seen and thousands of species of microbes that cannot be seen. Bacteria have been living on Earth for billions of years and they can be found almost everywhere. Indeed they form part of man's life and affect society significantly. A lot of microbes including fungi have been used to improve health and living conditions. Viruses such as the influenza virus, the SARS virus and the birds' flu, on the other hand, disturb society drastically. Special

topics will be described and discussed in each session and students are expected to solve some take-home problems related to the special topics. Students are expected to work in groups for a special project to be presented at the end of the course. Students will also have hands-on experience through practical work and demonstrations to understand science.

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, students following the Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Biology, Ecology and Biodiversity, Environmental Protection or Food and Nutritional Science major, BSc(Bioinformatics) students, and students with a pass in AL/AS Biology.

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

This course provides non-science students with a general understanding 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 4 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) and BSc(CSIS) students, BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE), and students with a pass in AL/AS Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

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

This course will provide a critical analysis of the genre of science fiction and will involve 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 and such like, 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. A major component of the course will be writing assignments based on prepared questions and a writing assignment on creating an outline/synopsis of a science-fiction story or film.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(BSE) and BEng(ME) students, and students who have taken PHYS0602.

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

This course discusses scientific thinking and its relationship with the process of discovery. It provides an introduction to logic of scientific thinking that leads eventually to scientific discovery. The course emphasizes appreciation of these discoveries and their implications to society. Topics include: investigation on scientific thinking: why and how?; the history of science and method of science; scientific discovery as problem solving?; Can we plan discovery? The interesting discoveries to be discussed are: laser and its application; molecular soccerball and nanotechnology; DNA: its uses and applications in science and technology; Einstein and relativity; and critical temperature and superconductivity. In addition, recent discoveries in science may also be discussed.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(BSE), BEng(ME), BEng(MedE), BSc and BSc(ActuarSc) students.

**YSCN0023. So fat so thin – to eat or not to eat (3 credits)**

Many in Hong Kong suffer from overweight problems. Some (especially girls) have gone the opposite direction by starving themselves to look as thin as they can to match their vastly underweight idols (fashion models or singers). Both situations stem from the lack of general scientific knowledge on how to maintain a normal healthy body.

This course which is designed for non-science majors will provide an overview on food science and nutrition. The health effects arising from obesity (overweight) and anorexia (underweight) and ways to prevent such problems will be examined through an interactive style of teaching. Students are required to participate in hands-on experiments and visits (to dry and wet markets, drug stores, health food stores, gyms and clinics) to obtain first hand knowledge and to assess the local situation.

Note: This course is not available to BSc and BSc(ActuarSc) 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. 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 5 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: the chemical basis of the gene; gene evolution; genes and food; gene chips; animal cloning; genes and disease; genes and crime; the human genome and computer science; genes and behaviour; and 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, students following the Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Biology, Ecology and Biodiversity, Environmental Protection or Food and Nutritional Science major, BSc(Bioinformatics) students, students with a pass in AL/AS Biology, and students who have taken BIOL0120.

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**YSCN0008. The great disasters (3 credits)**

This course presents an overview of major natural disasters, ranging from regional geological hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides to global catastrophes such as meteorite impacts that threaten to exterminate the entire civilization. Some of these disasters have subtle but significant implications for the evolution of life. Through the course, students are expected to gain an appreciation of the theory and scale of occurrence of these natural and human-induced disasters. It also provides students with insight into scientists' pursuit to predict and prevent such happenings. A problem-based learning (PBL) approach is employed. Seminar topics include: large earthquakes and tsunami events; volcanic hazards; climatic catastrophes; water crisis and technological hazards; epidemics and disease; massive extinction; nuclear incidents; and hazards mitigations and prevention from engineering aspects.

Note: This course is not available to students who have taken EASC0101.

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

This course aims to provide a general background knowledge on the biological functions of the human body; identify and discuss lifestyle factors that affect body functions; and communicate the significance of lifestyle factors that influence body functions. Lecture topics include: health and unhealthy: your body at a glance; healthy heart; smoking, air pollution and your lungs; “We are what we eat”; and exercise: keeping good health. Laboratory topics include: blood pressure and heart sound; test of lung function; assessment of body fat; and heart and lung functions in exercise.

Note: This course is not available to BChinMed, BEng(MedE), BNurs and BSc(Bioinformatics) students.

**(III) Culture and Value Studies****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 undergraduate beginners. It assumes no previous knowledge or training in the subject on the part of students and serves to stimulate interest in understanding the creative process in those industries. Students will be required to attend guest lectures as well as other events related to architecture and the creative industries as prescribed by the course coordinators.

Please note that some of the guest lectures may be conducted in Cantonese due to the language preference of the guest lectures. In such cases, simultaneous (English) translation or interpretation will be provided. The number of lectures given in Cantonese is expected not to exceed 50% of the total lectures.

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

**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 (globalization 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.

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

Christianity is a major factor in the shaping of the Western civilization 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. Lecture topics include: Christianity and the social sciences: friends or foes; Christianity and the physical sciences: friends or foes; Christian worldview: a primer and a comparative study; Christianity and technology; Christianity and the underprivileged; Christianity and law: a case study and Christianity and literature.

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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 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, by which is meant that students will be able to develop their own arguments, critically evaluate the arguments of others, using reasoning that is sound, non-entrenched, willing to consider multiple perspectives, and sceptical.

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

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

This course will introduce students to the field of built heritage conservation within the framework of cultural sustainability. 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 of how conservation work is carried out as part of the objective to achieve cultural sustainability, 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 re-use (the adaptation of old buildings for economically viable new uses). In addition, they will be introduced to local traditional materials and 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 sustainably managed for the socio-cultural and economic benefit of our future generation. 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) and BSc(Surv) students.

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**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.

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

The course aims to expose students to a wide range of world literature about love and desire through the perspective of same-sex relationships. It will help students understand current academic theories of the historical diversity of same-sex orientation, think critically about same-sex relationships across cultures and time, and come to informed analyses of the nature of same-sex relations in particular, and minorities' status in general. The course will cover the same-sex tradition in the literature of ancient Greece and Rome, of China until the end of the Qing dynasty, and of Japan until the end of the Edo period. It will also explore the effect of the rise of Christianity and Islam on same-sex relations in Europe and the Middle East before dealing with the creation of the modern gay identity over the past 150 years in modern writing and film.

By the end of the course, students should have read a selection of literary texts from around the world about love and desire and understood the diversity of ways in which same-sex love and desire have been expressed in different places at different times. They will have a greater understanding of the societal forces that control and modify people's sexual behaviour in any given society at any given time and appreciate that attitudes to sexual minorities may have significant implications for other minorities within that society.

**YLIT0005. Hong Kong cinema in the context of globalization (3 credits)**

It is now commonly agreed that Hong Kong cinema cannot be regarded merely as a local cinema. In an age where cross-cultural interactions and global traffic are frequent, Hong Kong cinema is an interesting site where complex global processes can be easily traced. Not only will students witness the massive outflows of film personnel from Hong Kong to Hollywood, they will also observe that the inflows of financial capital for co-production and sponsorship are increasingly vibrant in both Hong Kong popular and independent cinemas. How are these processes manifested in the cinema's images? What kinds of cultural relationships between Hong Kong and the outside world are mediated by such images? What does "Chineseness" mean in the Hong Kong cinematic context? What film genre is the most circulatory? In what ways does the festival circuit provide a route of global circulation especially for independent films? With a wide selection of Hong Kong films, this course takes students on an exploration of the intricate interactions between the local and the global from a variety of perspectives ranging from cinema studies, critical and cultural theory, sociology and cultural anthropology. To expand students' horizons, film critics, scholars, and industrial and independent filmmakers will be invited to dialogue with students. Students will be assigned both Chinese and English readings, and some guest lectures by film critics and directors may be delivered in Chinese; English synopses will be provided.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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

Happiness and fulfillment are something that most people 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.

**YLAN0003. Italian classical roots of European civilization (3 credits)**

Touching on different subjects such as Latin language and Philosophy, Architecture and Law, Literature and History, Religion and Politics, this course will give an outline of Italian classical civilization in its manifold aspects and will examine how Europe was shaped by its Roman heritage and how classical roots contributed to create European culture over the centuries. At the end of the course, students will be able to use the knowledge acquired to make comparison of the classical European culture with different aspects of contemporary Europe analytically. Students will acquire the skills of how to analyze topics from an inter-disciplinary point of view and how to discover ancient roots in what may seem brand new.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken LANG0006.

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

This course will provide a platform for reflection and discussion on the issues of death, dying and bereavement from the perspectives of psychology, sociology, religion, spirituality and culture. Furthermore, it will focus on the understanding of death related issues in the local Chinese context. It enables students to increase their understanding of issues related to death, dying and bereavement; facilitate their reflections on the cultural implications on death, dying and bereavement, and consider their own values and attitudes on life and death; and develop a positive attitude in life.

Lecture topics include: an overview of death and dying; psychological development of death concept; natural deaths and unnatural deaths; work with the dying: palliative and hospice care; work with the bereaved persons; Chinese death rituals and its philosophical implications; and conclusion: transformation from death to bereavement. There will also be a forum on death and transformation and experiential workshops on death, dying and bereavement.

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**YMUS0007. Music, language and meaning (3 credits)**

This course, which is open only to non-majors, explores studies on music that particularly consider it as a meaningful communicative human behaviour. In what ways can music be construed as a “language”? How are emotions expressed in it? Are words equivalent to musical tones and phrases, sentences? What do these tones mean? Do they refer to things external to music or are they immanent in the music itself? Do they indicate human acts? Why do all human societies have songs and dances? And why are these associated with healing, occult and magic in ancient societies? How is music valued and used in modern technologically-advanced societies? In particular, where and how did the idea of listening to music in itself come about? Is music an object or an enchanting experience? All these questions centres around a philosophy of music that views it as a sign. This course is therefore designed to foster critical thinking how and why humans have invested meanings into their music making activities as they communicated with one another.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken MUSI2048.

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**YTSC0003. Quality culture in a developed economy (3 credits)**

This course reviews the development of quality concept since industrial revolution and contrasts the difference between quality and productivity. On this basis, it discusses why quality is an essential factor in making a business successful.

In order to help students understand the key elements of quality concept, the course outlines the gurus in the field and their contributions. This is followed by an in-depth discussion of quality approaches adopted by major enterprises.

An increasing number of university graduates will find themselves working in a quality or quality-related area after graduation. This course introduces the career opportunities available and helps them prepare for such career opportunities. The issue of how to take quality as a personal commitment is emphasized as well.

External speakers with appropriate background will be invited to share their experience on topics such as practicing quality in industry and quality as a career. Students will also visit a well established firm to see things in real.

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**YMUS0008. Representation of the supernatural in music (3 credits)**

From the very beginnings of human memory, witches, ghouls, ghosts and goblins have played a highly significant role in the formation and continuance of stories that have attempted an explanation of natural phenomena and inexplicable cultural conventions. In Western culture, visual, conceptual and aural embodiments of such mythological creatures have numerously appeared in sculpture, painting, literature and music. This course, which is open only to non-majors, surveys musical representations of the supernatural throughout the ages. It will focus on a selection of eclectic musical works ranging from expressions of veiled medieval occultism to present-day cinematic productions of gothic horror, in which mythology and the supernatural continue to resonate.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken MUSI2050.

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

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**(IV) Information Technology Studies**

**YITC1001. Foundations to information technology (3 credits)**

The objectives of the course are to introduce students to basic information technology (IT) knowledge, arouse students' interest in IT by aligning the course content with their needs and foster resource-based learning that will directly promote lifelong active learning. The course is divided into three parts: theories of computer systems; usage of some computer software; and using the HKU Libraries. Topics include concepts of computer hardware, software, PC systems, the Internet and World Wide Web (WWW), legal aspects of computing, computer applications and information search strategies.

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

**YITC1002. Information technology proficiency test (non-credit-bearing)**

The objective of the test is to enable students to demonstrate their basic IT knowledge through the test. A list of study materials (books, e-books, online tutorials) and voluntary teaching sessions on the library and practical parts are offered to students. Students are assessed by a two-hour test, the test of which is identical to that of the course YITC1001.

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