

SYLLABUSES OF BROADENING COURSES¹**(I) Humanities and Social Sciences Studies****YMFT0001. A guide to successful relationships – everything you need to know to make it happen (3 credits)**

For most university students, the undergraduate years serve as a transition between life in the family to life in the real world. This course focuses on the many layers of interpersonal relationship during this process, including a review of the family structure and how it has constructed our expectation of self and others; an exploration of the necessary adjustment from family to the University culture; as well as enriching the interpersonal skills and leadership ability to ensure successful completion of this passage to adulthood.

Guidance will be provided on how to remain true to oneself despite competing demands of the different relationships that occur in everyday life. On completion of the course, students will become more aware of the circular and reciprocal nature of all human encounters and achieve better fulfillment in both their personal and professional relationship.

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 development of philosophy and science with architecture will be discussed. An overview for architecture with the doctrine of dependent origination will also be taken.

Guest lecturers may be invited to speak in certain classes. Teaching will be based on lectures with appropriate video presentations.

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

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

This course will explore 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. In this course, we will focus specifically on the intersection of the physical and the emotional aspects of cultural, lifestyle and living heritages and their significance to the various cultural groups. We will also explore how cultural heritages are appropriated, transmitted and transformed by different agencies such as the state, schools, religious organisations and local society, to cater to their own purposes. Cultural heritages from various Asian countries and ethnic minority groups will be explored, including the heritages of the Japanese, Chinese, Tibetans, Uighurs, Mongolian, Indonesian and Filipino societies.

The course adopts a multi-disciplinary perspective and will be delivered by teachers from the Faculties of Social Sciences, Arts and Education, as well as guest lecturers.

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

YCAS0003. China and Asia in the 21st 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, an awareness of the importance of China to the Asian region as well as creativity and resourcefulness in problem solving and research. These objectives will be met via a programme of assessment designed to stimulate the diverse skill sets of students.

Note: This course is not recommended for first-year students.

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

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the most important aspects 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 related topics, and most importantly, give them a competitive edge over other students in analysing 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.

YLIT0006. Defining the arts scene in Hong Kong (3 credits)

What is an “arts scene”? Does Hong Kong have one? Is a “scene” a concrete social entity? Or is it a myth, a retrospective, artificial construction by critics and historians, an abstract rationalisation of random events, processes, and individual choices? This course, coordinated by the Comparative Literature and Music departments, will attempt to answer these questions through close readings and discussions of selected works, artistic events, entities, and venues characteristic of Hong Kong’s cultural life: the multiplex cinema, the soho commercial gallery, cantopop, the international film festival, the classical music organisations, independent cinema, Cantonese opera, the cattle depot artist village, and cyberspace. What will emerge is a fragmented, yet extraordinarily open, cultural space, one which the audience – be they critics, students, amateurs, and even tourists – can play a crucial role in shaping and nurturing. “Defining the Arts Scene in Hong Kong,” then, will mean not only finding the right words and tools to understand something that already exists but also becoming active agents in bringing its existence to a new level of self-awareness, participating in the very process of its creation.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

YECC0003. Language and the Internet (3 credits)

This course will explore 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. The course will help them have a greater awareness of the nature of language and Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) as they develop “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 will be presented synchronously online. This culminating presentation will give students an opportunity to investigate a new or emerging technology from a linguistic perspective.

YLAW0002. Law, government and society (3 credits)

This course addresses six 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 BBA(Law), BEng(CivE-Law), BSocSc(Govt&Laws) and LLB students.

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 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 initiative in learning outside an area that they are most comfortable with.

YBUS0001. Me, Inc. Entrepreneurship for life (3 credits)

Viewing life as an entrepreneurial venture, this course uses the concept of Me, Inc. (as a metaphor for a purposeful and prosperous life) and the Five Dynamics of Entrepreneurship Teaching Model to help students develop a Life Business Plan and Strategic Action Plans aimed at accomplishing specific, career oriented goals and objectives. Interdisciplinary in nature, lectures and case-based guided inquiries combine materials from the humanities, sociology, psychology, and business domains in ways that enable students to design and manage “a life worth living”. Course content includes an introductory overview of business topics such as sales and marketing, branding, production, human relations, purchasing, finance, strategic planning, research and development, as well as social sciences and psychology topics such as how self-esteem, motivation, character strengths and behaviour impact the development of trust and credibility.

Note: This course is available to first- and second-year students only.

YMUS0009. Music and power (3 credits)

This course looks into specific studies that highlight how music shapes or is shaped by power relations. It argues that the exercise of power is involved in the performance of songs and dances during events that range from playful, yet intimate, face to face gatherings to serious, impersonal, public rituals in advanced, complex societies. A theory of music is not just a theory of tones, but a theory of social processes that a music is about. This course will enable students to think critically about the relationships between music and power in various contexts of group relations that are not necessarily political in nature. Readings pertinent to the use of music in relation to gender, class, race, and ethnicity will reveal that music as power can galvanise consent, identity, conformity and cooperation, much as it can also become a moral weapon of the weak to resist domination and oppression.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken MUSI2049, and not recommended for first-year students.

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

The course's main objectives are to help students learn how to discover, record, focus, verify and assemble and critically assess modern media information – or any subject with a special emphasis on local and international news organisations. In doing so, the course fulfils many of the main criteria for broadening courses by helping students acquire self-directed learning and critical thinking skills and problem-solving and communication competencies essential to success in the Information Age.

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

YECC0001. Understanding Narratives (3 credits)

Narratives are important as they underlie all literary works 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: 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 opportunities to write narratives in the forms of short stories, poems, as well as short plays and to perform them.

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

This course introduces listeners to a variety of local popular musics from around the world. The cultural diversity expressed in world musics transcends geographic and linguistic boundaries as the global village becomes smaller. We 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 and video will be used to examine selected case studies. Tango from Argentina, Flamenco from Spain, Salsa and Son from New York and Cuba, Cajun and Zydeco from the USA, and Morna from Cape Verde are important and accessible styles whose popularity have increased dramatically over recent years. This course helps students develop ways of appreciating, and 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.

(II) Science and Technology Studies**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 realising creative ideas. Environmental and ethical considerations with respect to creativity are discussed.

Hands-on experience is emphasised 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 realising 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), BEng(ME-BSE) and BEng(MedE) students.

YSCN0024. Ecology and biodiversity field course (3 credits)

The aim of the course is to enable students to study the 5 major habitats in Hong Kong, namely mangroves, streams, hillsides, sandy shores and rocky shores, and to understand the factors affecting the distributions of species in those habitats.

A one-day field trip to a mangrove in Hong Kong will be held on Saturday March 3, 2007, followed by a 3-day residential field camp in the New Territories from April 5 to 7, 2007, i.e. during the Easter holidays. For each habitat, an introductory lecture will be given prior to going out to the field. A summary lecture will be given after the field trip and a demonstration to show the morphological adaptations of plant and animal species found in the field may be provided. Two special seminars on biodiversity will be given. The course will be supported by an on-line learning support centre which will be ready in December 2006.

Note: This course is not available to BSc and BSc(ActuarSc) students and students who have taken YSCN0007.

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.

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 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. Following an introduction to the concepts of basic chemistry, analytical and instrumentation techniques, students will understand the forensic analysis of substances such as glass, soil, hair, ink, bullets, gunpowder and drugs. 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 for 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. Problem-solving, case studies as well as “hands-on” casework examples of fingerprints, hairs and fibers and the interpretation of results will also form part of the course.

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 and/or YSCN0024.

YSCN0025. Living with microbes – a practical approach (3 credits)

Bacteria have been living on Earth for billions of years and they can be found in almost everywhere. You may have heard about the harmful effect of microbes (such as disease causing bacteria, the SARS virus and the birds’ flu) on human health. But have you heard about the beneficial use of microbes in improving our standard of living and health? Many pharmaceutical products that we use nowadays are made by microbes. Many food and commodities that we consumed are processed by microbes. Without the microbes, we cannot survive! The aim of this course is to provide students with an overview on the importance of microorganisms and our relationship with them. Students will be given the opportunity to explore the world of microbes via hands-on experience. Prior knowledge of biology is NOT required. You will learn to work and think like a scientist.

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.

YSCN0002. Mathematics: a cultural heritage (3 credits)

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

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 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 and cloning; 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.

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: (1) laser and its application; (2) molecular soccerball and nanotechnology; (3) DNA technology and the applications of the recombinant DNA technology; (4) Einstein and relativity; (5) critical temperature and superconductivity. In addition, recent discoveries in science may also be included in the discussion.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(BSE), BEng(ME), BEng(ME-BSE), 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 songstress). Both situations stem from the lack of general scientific knowledge on how to maintain a normal healthy body.

This course is designed for non-science majors. An overview will be provided 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 expected to visit dry and wet markets, drug stores, health food stores to gain first hand knowledge of the local (food) situation and to examine their own nutritional facts. Students will be graded by continuous assessment methods. There is no formal examination at the end of the course.

Note: This course is not available to BSc and BSc(ActuarSc) students. Preference will be given to students who do not have a pass in AL/AS Biology.

YSCN0026. The big ‘small’ – an introduction to nanoscience and nanotechnology (3 credits)

In the past decade, one of the most exciting developments in science and technology is the growth of nanoscience and nanotechnology. Nanoscience and nanotechnology are multi-disciplinary in nature, penetrating many branches of sciences and engineering. With the extensive media coverage generating many misconceptions and unsubstantiated hypes in public, it is essential that our students acquire a proper understanding of this exciting new frontier in science. This course aims to provide a rigorous introduction of nanoscience and nanotechnology, explaining what this new development is about and what the advantages and applications nanomaterials may bring. The impacts of nanoscience and nanotechnology on social, industrial and commercial development will also be discussed.

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

YMEH0003. ‘The day after tomorrow’ – how climate change will affect you (3 credits)

Climate change is receiving serious attention around the world due to its devastating impact on our lives, environments and economies. Climate change due to human activity is a matter under continuous debate. Although climate change is an ongoing phenomenon, its major repercussions could be sudden and unexpected. The other most serious phenomenon of climate change is that it is not time or location specific; its consequences can be ongoing, wide spread and long term, affecting generations. These effects will influence our life style in various ways – what we eat, what we wear, where we live, how we travel, etc. We have already started to experience the effects of climate change. Climate change is not only global warming; increasing temperature will lead to many other changes, e.g. wind, precipitation, and sea level, and may cause famine and unexpected extreme weather events. Though we cannot stop climate change or its consequences, we can certainly play a role in reducing the impact by changing our acts, life styles and attitudes, and by raising awareness of the environments and empathy towards future generations.

YSCN0004. The gene (3 credits)

The objective of the course is to expose students to the impact of the gene on modern society. We are at the dawn of a true biotechnology and information technology explosion. It is only a little over 50 years ago that Watson and Crick first described the double helical structure of the DNA molecule initiating the advancement of molecular biology that will result in the complete sequencing of the human genome in the next five years. The completion of the human genome sequencing project will lead to a better understanding of diseases, new diagnostic assays and the subsequent development of therapeutic drugs, leading to a better quality of life. It will also bring about many technical and ethical issues with which the general public will need to deal. The goal of this course is to expose students from all backgrounds to the basic unit of inheritance, the gene and its impact in various scientific and social disciplines. Topics include 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.

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 civilisation. 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. The course also provides students with insight into scientists' pursuit to predict and prevent such happenings. A problem-based learning (PBL) approach is employed as the learning pedagogy in this course.

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 (for non-biologists)/advanced level (for biologists) of background knowledge on the biological functions of the human body; identify and discuss life-style factors that affect body functions; and communicate the significance of life-style factors that influence body functions. Lecture topics include: healthy and unhealthy: your body at a glance; healthy heart; smoking, air pollution and your lungs; "We are what we eat"; exercise: keeping good health; and (for biologists) eating disorders: feasting or starving. Laboratory topics include: test of lung function; assessment of body fat; heart and lung functions in exercise; (for non-biologists) blood pressure and heart sound; (for biologists) exercise and the heart; and basal metabolic rate.

Note: This course is not available to BChinMed, BEng(MedE), BNurs and BSc(Bioinformatics) students. The first-semester subclass is not available to students with a pass in AL/AS Biology, while the second-semester subclass is not available to students without a pass in AL/AS Biology.

(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 beginning undergraduate students. They assume no previous knowledge or training in the subject on the part of students and serve 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 lecturers. 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 (globalisation and westernisation). This course examines these issues in a variety of formats using guest lectures, mass media analysis, video clips, problem solving activities and discussion.

YPSY0004. Christianity and society (3 credits)

This course aims to develop students' critical thinking, understanding and tolerance of diversities and views other than their own, and give students a fundamental knowledge of how Christianity is related to the sciences and the arts in the Western civilisation and the society that we have inherited today.

Dynamic exchange and active participation of students through question, answer and discussion will be emphasized. Students are encouraged to think critically, take initiative, and develop their own opinions and thoughts, as well as to appreciate each other's points of view to achieve the goal of broadening the mind. Topics may include: fact and fiction; Christianity in art and literature: a historical perspective; privileged planet and privileged man; marriage and family; The Lord of the Rings: explorations on the dark side of humanity; Christian experience in a business world; pains and gains in indulgence and addiction: visit to a gambling rehabilitation centre; second chances; and caring for the human body and soul: Christian perspectives and experiences.

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 and 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.

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 is art valued? Why is death bad? These are some of the questions that will be explored in this course.

This is a large discussion based course. That is, there is a guest or regular lecture each week with a prepared presentation, but presented as much as possible in response to questions and discussion. The essential readings will be available on the website, on reserve in the library, or distributed in class. The course will include screening and discussion of several films. There will be three one-hour non-compulsory tutorials during the course to facilitate more informal discussion.

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 literature 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 local cinema. In an age where cross-cultural interactions and global traffics 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. 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.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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

Happiness and fulfilment 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.

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

Through the interplay of health psychology, cultural, philosophical and religious perspectives, the course will provide a platform for reflection and discussion on the issues of death, dying and bereavement. Furthermore, it will focus on the understanding of death related issues in the local context. It enables students to increase their understanding of issues related to death, dying and bereavement; reflect on the cultural implications on death, dying and bereavement; consider their own values and attitudes on life and death; and develop a positive attitude in life.

Lecture topics include: death and dying: overview; psychology of death: how do we think about it?; taking one's own life: suicide and its consequences; dying with dignity: palliative and hospice care; living with hope: bereavement counseling; six feet under: the funeral and its preparation; beginning of the end: how religions understand death; investigating deaths and next of kin clinic; and a final note: transforming from losses. There will also be a workshop on good death and dying.

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 elaborates the career opportunities available and helps them to prepare for such career opportunities. The issue of how to take quality as a personal commitment is emphasised 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.

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, and not recommended for first-year students.

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. This course 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.

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 one in five) 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 utilises 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.

YLAN0004. Understanding the German way – an introduction into contemporary life in Germany (3 credits)

This course provides an introduction into political, economic and social issues of contemporary life in Germany and discusses the country's cultural and linguistic diversity. Topics include: post 1949 German history; Germany's reunification; Germany's political system; German economy and international relations; women and society; education; German culture and language; foreigners in Germany; German customs and traditions; and German characteristics.

Lectures and discussions will be supported through the usage of contemporary documents and authentic materials such as audio and video clips, newspaper articles and sources from the World Wide Web. Furthermore, guest speakers from selected German institutions in Hong Kong will be invited to give talks on different topics covering social and cultural aspects of contemporary life in Germany. Lectures and guest talks aim at encouraging students to contribute their ideas and comments in open group discussions.

All lectures are conducted in English.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

(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 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 studying 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, which covers the same topics as those in the course YITC1001. Students are encouraged to take the test in the first year of their studies.

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.