

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; and an exploration of one's spiritual fulfillment – how it is shaped by one's relationships and how to enhance it in the course of life.

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, Chinese 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 thoughts behind the built environment will be discussed. An overview for architecture with the doctrine of dependent origination will also be taken. Local guest lecturers will share their experience with students.

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 specifically focus 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, ethnic minorities in Mainland China, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese 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 will review contemporary relations between China and the countries of Asia. The lecture series will begin with a brief review of Chinese foreign policy since 1949, before examining China's relations with the major countries and regions of Asia. Beginning with an overview of the development of China's foreign policy, the course then moves through the four regions surrounding China – Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, South Asia and Central Asia. The final lecture considers the application of the issues raised in the previous lectures to the question of Taiwan's involvement in regional affairs and, by extension, the potential for Hong Kong to be involved in regional discussions. Following the lectures, the students form debating groups to argue a contemporary issue currently facing China. In the final session, an in-class quiz will conclude the course.

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

YCAS0005. Collective memory: unity and diversity in Hong Kong community (3 credits)

For a decade, the Centre of Asian Studies has developed expertise and remarkable research records on memory and history. Drawing upon the Centre's strengths and individual experiences, the teaching team will introduce a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding collective memory about Hong Kong, a highly disputable terminology in recent popular discourses. The course will demonstrate how oral history can be used as a research method to study memory of places, political memory, and memory as a symbolic representation and an empowering agent of community. The teaching team will organise students into teams and guide them to organise practical projects of preserving and re-constructing collective memory of Hong Kong. Through face-to-face interactions with people and communities from diverse backgrounds, students will learn to appreciate cultural diversity and historical consciousness. The group project also trains students to critically understand cosmopolitan Hong Kong through creative re-presentations of collective memories.

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.

YECC0004. From paintings to stories: the interplay between art and literature (3 credits)

The main purpose of this course is to examine the relationship between art and literature, and how one form inspires the creation of the other. In each of the ten lectures, a pair of artistic and literary works will be presented for discussion. Some lectures begin with a painting, and go on to examine a literary piece that it gives birth to; in other lectures, the process will be reversed: a poem, a short story, a play will be introduced first, and this is followed by a painting that is based on its literary counterpart.

In this course, students will learn to appreciate paintings from different times and cultures, approach a range of literary texts, and will be given ample opportunities to do creative writings based on artistic works.

YLIT0007. Hong_Kong_Culture@community.policy.planning (3 credits)

Dynamic cultural planning is considered worldwide as a new way to integrate cultural demands and socioeconomic goals. New studies on cultural policies show that “managerialism” and “entrepreneurialism” in planning prioritise unsustainable tourism, architectural build-up and competitive urban growth over sustainable cultural and economic development. Hong Kong clearly lacks perspectives on how important “cultural” infrastructure is to development of the city. Other countries already stress cultural policies that are sustainable, democratic and grounded in community needs. This is an intellectual and policy gap that we can, and ought to, fill. Students will learn how to approach such issues in a multi-disciplinary environment in the local and global context.

We will explore developments like the West Kowloon Cultural District, the Star Ferry and Queen's Pier, the old Kai Tak Airport, as well as redevelopment and preservation projects all over Hong Kong like the Blue House, Temple Street and Shek Kip Mei.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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 as well as to examine and document and discuss the varieties of language and language situations on the Internet. The course will foster an awareness of the nature of language and Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) and assist students to develop greater “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.

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.

YNST0001. Prevention of family violence (3 credits)

Through the use of real life situations in family violence, students from different disciplines (including those from health, social work and legal disciplines) will engage in interdisciplinary inquiry that would enable them to acquire an integrated knowledge base in family violence and tackle problems through multidisciplinary teamwork. The shared learning provides an environment for students to interact with facilitators and students from other disciplines and expose to new knowledge that crosses disciplinary boundaries. While knowledge acquisition is an important outcome of this course, internalising greater understanding of others and developing skills in multidisciplinary collaboration are also the key intended learning outcomes.

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 – on 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.

YSWK0007. What will I be in 2046 – understanding and preparing for ageing (3 credits)

This multi-disciplinary course aims to provide students with a better understanding of positive ageing and the effective ways of leading a healthy and secure later life. The course is targeted towards students from different faculties studying in various academic/professional disciplines. It will attempt to relate the challenges and problems posed by an ageing population to the various academic/professional practitioners, so that students can identify more with the application of the knowledge and practice in their respective fields. It will cover physiological, psychological and social aspects of ageing, problems and needs of senior citizens including health, housing, financial security, leisure and community participation, as well as retirement protection and financial management. Academics and professional practitioners will be invited to deliver lectures. Agency visits will be arranged to enhance students' appreciation of the real-life situations of these various themes.

(II) Science and Technology Studies

YSCN0026. 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.

YSCN0027. Chemistry in sport (3 credits)

Sport and fitness are for everyone. With the 2008 Olympics to be taking place in China, we are now getting more concerned about the development of the sport in Hong Kong. Chemistry and Sport – is there any relevance? Have you ever wondered why World records in sport continue to improve – especially in athletics events? One of the reasons is better equipment. Advanced materials are used to produce stronger, more resilient, and lighter weight equipment like track surfaces, shoes, and clothing, all of which help improve athletes' performances. Besides, dietary supplements can also be used for increasing muscle strength and enabling quicker training recovery. It is just right to say nearly every sport relies on modern materials and chemicals. With chemistry, not only athletes, but also you and I, can make the most out of sport for health and excitement.

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

YSCN0029. Climate change through Earth history (3 credits)

Climate change refers to the changes in average weather conditions that generally occur over long periods of time, usually centuries or longer. The geological record shows that climate change can occur more rapidly, in periods as short as decades. Such climate changes are often characterised as "abrupt". Abrupt climate change remains poorly understood and students in this course will be stimulated to think about the complexity of the earth system and the drivers of abrupt climate change.

This course will look at the causes, scales and drivers of climate change. Students will also be taught about the major drivers of climate change on a global scale and the concept of 'tipping points' or thresholds identified in records of climate change.

Note: This course is not available to BSc students following the Earth Sciences or Environmental Life Science programme, students following the Earth Sciences, Ecology and Biodiversity or Environmental Protection major/minor, and students who have taken EASC0101 or YSCN0024.

YTSC0002. Creativity, design and technology (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.

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, and tofu 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, and 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 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.

Note: This course is not available to Science and Engineering students.

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 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.

YSCN0030. Renewable energy (3 credits)

World's population and energy consumption keep increasing. However, traditional energy sources, such as fossil fuels, are limited and contribute to the pollution and release of greenhouse gases. Therefore, in recent years considerable efforts have been devoted to the development of alternative energy sources, with emphasis on renewable energy.

This course will introduce different types of renewable and alternative energy sources, and discuss their basic principles of operation, achievable efficiency, cost, and their effect on the environment. The impact of the new energy technologies on the environment, the obstacles to their wide implementation in industrial and consumer applications, and the role of social attitudes and government planning, financial investments and incentives will also be discussed.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(BSE), BEng(ME) and BEng(ME-BSE) 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 three main 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); and (3) Life, which deals with cell division (growth), reproduction, genes and genetics, biotechnology and cloning. In addition, there will be one session 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 or their equivalents.

YSCN0023. Scientific perspectives on obesity and anorexia (3 credits)

Many in Hong Kong suffer from overweight problems. Some 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.

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. 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.

YSCN0008. The great disasters – living with natural hazards (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 insights into scientists' pursuit to predict and prevent such happenings.

A problem-based learning approach is employed as the pedagogy for this course. During each tutorial, a problem statement will be discussed, and students will be required to define his/her own investigation topic, design and manage the studying process, and present the findings. A substantial portion of the marking and assessment is based on the attitude, class participation and performance of the students during the tutorials.

YSCN0028. The world: environment and us (3 credits)

This course will explore three main aspects of the world.

1. Our universe and origin of life – Students will be exposed to debates over the origin of the universe from the scientific and the social scientific perspectives. Topics will include the nature-nurture debate, and the role of religion in human evolution.
 2. Our disappearing environment and disappearing culture – This theme will discuss the disappearing environment as a result of natural causes such as global warming and meteor impact. It will also discuss made-man causes of disappearing environment like technology and consumerism and their consequential impact on human culture.
 3. Our living – Food and Technology – This theme will explore the impact of such scientific discovery and modern technology as GM and cloning on food production. At the same time, it will explore the impact of indigenous food knowledge on the health and well-being of individuals within the society.
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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**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: Christianity, science, and the western civilization; a historical analysis of the religion; Christianity and literature; Christianity and democracy; genetic screening: some secular and a Christian's perspectives on a medical-ethical issue; forgiveness: the Christian message, a psychological analysis, and a personal experience; 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? Is death bad? These are some of the questions that will be explored in this course. Topics will range from Zen to evolution and sociobiology. Teaching will comprise lectures; tutorials; and film-screening workshop.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

YBUS0001. 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.

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 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.

YSCM0001. General knowledge and methods on traditional Chinese health care (3 credits)

The theory of health care in traditional Chinese is built upon the experience of promoting health and preventing illness that has been in existence for thousands of years. It is one of the Chinese traditional cultures. Through lectures, practice and visits, this course aims to introduce to students the basic knowledge and methods of traditional Chinese health care and life cultivation.

The course has 7 sessions and each session lasts 3 hours. Topics include: introduction to the theoretical basis of health care in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM); and the application of TCM in such areas as diet, regulation of emotion, and exercises.

The course is taught in English.

Note: This course is not available to BChinMed students.

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. Translation will be offered if need arises.

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 their 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.

YLAN0002. Italy and the wider European framework (3 credits)

This course is articulated on some significant moments:

The Past:

(1) Italy at the origin of European civilization: Rome and its empire; Rome and its role in the spreading of Christianity; Rome as political, economic and cultural centre of the ancient world; (2) Italy meeting and departure point: the great Renaissance courts as international crossroads, the maritime republics, the great voyages of exploration and discovery, the crusades; (3) Italy in the conflicts of the XIX century: the rising in Europe of the national states, the unification of Italy, Mazzini and the dream of a united Europe.

The Near Past:

(1) The XX century: Italy and the other European countries from the two world wars to the European Union (EU); (2) the Italian stages in the building up of the EU.

To-day and To-morrow:

Topics on contemporary Italian life and culture will be discussed ranging from arts, literature, music, Italian customs and traditions in the different regions and cities, to cinema and tourism, food, fashion, environment, education, sports and politics with particular focus on the youth world.

Note: This course is not available to BA students and students who have taken LANG0001.

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; palliative and hospice care; bereavement counseling; suicide prevention; funeral rituals; and religious studies on death and forensic medicine. There will also be a workshop on decision-making issues surrounding death and dying.

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. As their relationship develops so we expect the nature of the sexual relationship to change. This course will look at some of those who take different developmental paths: for example homosexuals (who are attracted to members of their own sex) and transgendered people (who behave much like members of the other sex, some desperately wanting to be of that sex). Besides looking at what people feel about themselves and whom they are attracted to, 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 various sexually diverse groups and how society responds to the challenges that they pose.

YSRP0001. Stress, depression and suicide (3 credits)

Depression is a community wide problem which affects many people of all ages (CSRP, 2005), and is commonly experienced by university students. What is more, there is a strong relation between depression and suicide. Suffering from mood disorders is a significant risk factor for dying by suicide.

The course aims to help students learn how to achieve critical self-reflection and greater understanding of self and others, how to tackle novel situations, and how to appreciate effective interpersonal communication. The course will help students acquire the essential knowledge of stress, depression, and suicide, as well as enhance their life skills in managing stress, depression, and suicidal tendencies based on a cognitive-behavioural model. Under this approach, mental disorders are tackled based on the assumption that emotional responses are mediated through the interpretations, or meanings, that we give to experience. Thus, in order to improve one's mental health, the behaviour and the cognition of an individual need to be educated or trained.

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 some computer software; and using the HKU Libraries. Topics include computer hardware and software, networking and the Internet, legal aspects of computing, recent developments in IT, computer applications like document processor, presentation software etc, and information search strategies.

Note: This course is not available to BA(ArchStud), BBA, BBA(Acc&Fin), BBA(IBGM), BBA(IS), BBA(Law), BEng, BEng(SE) and BSc(CSIS) 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 are offered to students. Students are assessed by a two-hour test, which covers the same topics as that of 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.