

SYLLABUSES OF BROADENING COURSES¹**(I) Humanities and Social Sciences Studies****YEDU0007. A taste of Chinese opera (3 credits)**

Chinese Opera is a very important and traditional branch of Chinese culture and art. The understanding of Chinese culture and art is getting more and more important in university education all over the world. It is especially important for HKSAR university education, in respect of our students, our society as well as our country.

The course will be a combination of academic study and hand on workshops for students of any background to understand this internationally renowned art of China. Knowledge of Chinese Opera is wide and deep. This course will introduce the following aspects in order to initiate students' interest for further exploration and study: themes, characters, scripts, lines, songs, music, movement, stage, costume and Chinese culture.

YARC0007. Architecture of theories – appreciation of integrative approach to the built environment (3 credits)

This is an introductory course for the appreciation of architecture and its background theories with various disciplines for the society and humanities. Students will be introduced to the generation of architecture from sketch and the comprehensive review of the built environment in Hong Kong. Different perspectives to see the themes of architecture are revealed including culture, travelling, legislation, retail, religion, human and heritage, etc. Building visits are also arranged for appreciation of local environment.

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, 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>

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.

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) or BEng(CompSc) and students who have taken FINA0003.

YMFT0002. Food, sex and human nature (3 credits)

Food and sex, two basic needs the Confucians believed to constitute a great part of human nature, share much in common. Yet, most societies are able to manage food much more effectively than sex. For example, Hong Kong has made a bad name for being one of the most sexually handicapped societies of the modern world despite its reputation as a centre for high quality of food service and diversity. Can we borrow what we learn from food to understand sex? Can the two really be compared and treated in similar ways?

This course delineates in different perspectives how the two basic human needs infiltrate the many fine and subtle areas of our life, family, and civilization, how they work in similar and dissimilar ways, how we have succeeded or failed in coping with them, and how they reflect on the quality of family relationship and couple intimacy.

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.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(IETM), BEng(LESCM) and final-year students.

YLAW0009. Law, business and economic reform in China (3 credits)

This course is a cross-disciplinary subject on contemporary developments in China’s legal system and regulatory framework that support business activities. Major topics covered include the following:

- a. The general background and progress of China’s legal and economic reforms during its transition to a market economy
- b. The relationship between law and economic development in China
- c. Changing domestic and global circumstances that have shaped China’s legal and economic reforms
- d. Particular emphasis on reforms of corporate, financial and foreign investment law
- e. Domestic debates over policy orientation and reform strategy in specific economic sectors

Through interactive teaching and learning, this course will help students understand how the domestic environment for doing business in China has evolved to meet challenges of a globalizing economy and what role legal reform has played in this dynamic process.

Note: This course is not available to LLB students.

YJMS0002. Media literacy in the age of globalization (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.

YNST0001. Prevention of family violence (3 credits)

Through the use of real life situations in family violence, students from different 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.

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

This course begins with an introduction of various socio-cultural theories on popular culture. It then examines the development of popular culture including department stores, comics and animation, fashion, TV, pornographic culture, food, popular music and Internet in post-war Japan and Hong Kong. Finally, this course will investigate the transfer and reception of Japanese popular culture in and the impact on, Chinese societies in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland China.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

YPTH0001. Understanding sexual violence in Hong Kong (3 credits)

This course will help students reflect upon attitudes towards sexual violence and how such values impact the legal, medical and social systems available for victims of sexual violence. It will discuss the effects of gender equality and stereotypes and trace their impact to the roots of the problem of sexual violence. Students are encouraged to assess and experience for themselves the impact and effects these attitudes and values have on the provision of support and care services for victims of sexual violence. Students will also be able to explore how such values impact the law and the medicolegal investigation and prosecution of sexual violence. Finally, students will have the opportunity to draw upon their learning to design and develop "learning objects" that can be used to promote public education and awareness of the problems.

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**YSCN0027. Chemistry in sport (3 credits)**

Sport and fitness are for everyone. With the Beijing 2008 Olympics, we are 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, Environmental Protection major/minor or Global Climate Change minor, and students who have taken EASC0101 or YSCN0024.

YSCN0031. Every day mathematics (3 credits)

This course introduces in a non-technical fashion, some of the major mathematical techniques currently available to various profession and disciplines like law, medicine, accounting, engineering, etc. Topics include: (1) Mathematics in the Courtroom, (2) The Math of Google, (3) Game Theory and Auction, (4) Making and Breaking Codes, (5) Fighting AIDS and Influenza with Math, (6) Benford's Law and Detecting Fraud in Accounting Data, (7) Some Mathematical Principles of the Stock Markets.

Certain episode of the very recent popular TV series “NUMB3RS” will be used as a teaching tool through classroom activities and discussion. Moreover, some guest speakers outside of the mathematics department will be invited to share their experiences of using mathematics in their disciplines.

Note: This course is not available to BEng(CompSc), BEng(SE), BSc(CSIS) students, BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE) or BEng(CompSc), BEng(ME), BEng(ME-BSE), BEng(CE), BEng(EComE), BEng(InfoE) and BEng(EE) 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 or 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 one’s feet to the forces that have sculpted them. Students will be introduced to many topics from rock cycles to climate change. The course will look at the remarkably beautiful coastal features of HK 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 and EASC0101.

YSCN0032. Life in the Universe (3 credits)

What is life? How did life originate and evolve to its current state? Are we alone in the Universe? This course deals with these central and important scientific questions. Students will have the unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of these central themes by interrelating key aspects of astronomy, Earth and planetary sciences as well as biology, and they will also gain an appreciation of scientific debate and knowledge testing. The topics to be discussed in the course include: the Solar System and its formation; the conditions on early Earth; the origin of life's building blocks; the emergence and evolution of life; life in extreme environments; the possibility of life elsewhere in the Solar System; the discovery and diversity of extrasolar planetary systems; the search for habitable extrasolar planets and signs of life; and SETI, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

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

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, Microbiology, 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)

To let students appreciate the beauty, the utility, and the "Way" of mathematics, we try to let them sense how mathematics is around us by exposing them to clippings from the printed media with a mathematical connection, to phenomena, structures and manifestations in nature, in arts, in architecture, in literature, in sciences, all touching on mathematics. Students will also sense how mathematics evolve in time as a treasured heritage of mankind by looking at selected episodes from history of mathematics. Finally students are led to a discussion, on a more intellectual and philosophical level, of mathematical thinking, mathematical proof, the nature of mathematics, the influence of mathematics on and its interaction with other areas of human endeavour.

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 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) or BEng(CompSc) 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.

YSCN0004. The gene (3 credits)

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 learning outcomes are: to enhance students' understanding toward to the basic knowledge of inheritance; scientific knowledge of the gene and its impact in various ethical 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, Food and Nutritional Science, and Microbiology major, BSc(Bioinformatics) students, students with a pass in AL/AS Biology and students who have taken BIOL0120.

YSCN0033. The science of music (3 credits)

This course follows the basic structure of the excellent book "Science and Music" written by Sir James Jeans in the early 50s. It first develops a basic understanding of the physics of harmonic sound and an analysis of the differences between wind and stringed musical instruments. The anatomy and perception of sound by the ear are described. The reasons behind harmony and disharmony are explained on the theory of Helmholtz. The different musical scales are dealt with together with an understanding of the differences between Chinese and Western music. The course also deals with the practical side of modern music making such as the electronic detection of sound, amplification, mixing and hi-fidelity reproduction. The electronic production of music is demonstrated and the optimal design for concert halls discussed. The course will contain no mathematics except simple arithmetic.

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 man-made 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.

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**YLAN0005. An introduction to France and the francophone world (3 credits)**

This course offers an introduction to contemporary France through a range of key aspects, such as the historical and political development of the nation, its people, customs and popular culture, its institutions and society. These aspects will be discussed in relation with important current issues facing the country, as well as France's position today within the European framework and its standing in the world today. In addition, the course will undertake a broad exploration of the French-speaking world (la Francophonie), a community of nations from all over the world where French is widely spoken. Through the presentation of this variety of distinct realities united by a single language, we shall also investigate the notions of cultural identity and cultural representation, and how these notions structure our own life and our way of thinking about other cultures.

Note: This course is not available to BA students.

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.

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

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. It will also explore evidence for same-sex relations in other cultures (Amer-indian and African) and in the animal world. By the end of the course, students should have read a selection of literary texts from around the world about love and desire, and should have understood the diversity of ways in which same-sex love and desire have been expressed in different places at different times.

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)

Death is a universal event for human beings, yet it remains a taboo in different cultures in the contemporary society. This course provides an opportunity for students to better understand various issues on death, dying and bereavement, which are seldom thoroughly discussed in our everyday life. Different perspectives on death, dying and bereavement, including physiological, psychological, social, cultural, philosophical and religious, will be introduced. Students may better reflect on the cultural implications, as well as their own values on this topic. Life and death is inter-related. By knowing the unknown of death and dying, students may re-experience what is life and living.

YLAN0006. Living in the land of the midnight sun – towards an understanding of contemporary Scandinavia (3 credits)

This course introduces the region of Scandinavia (Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland), through the main themes of its history and culture. It explores features common to Scandinavia as a whole as well as aspects unique to each country. Sino-Scandinavian relations will be discussed and comparisons drawn between the lifestyles of Scandinavia and Hong Kong. Topics include:

- Scandinavian identities, languages, symbols, and values.
- Introduction to Scandinavian History: the Viking Era and Early Christianity; Religious reforms and wars; Emergence of nationalism and democracy; Scandinavia during WW1 and WW2; Popular Movements.
- Political systems and current political debates and trends in Scandinavia.
- Construction of the welfare state and its role in the 21st century, discussion and comparisons with Hong Kong.
- Culture in Scandinavia, including Scandinavian influences on world culture, Scandinavian literary giants, and Scandinavian films.
- Scandinavia and China through history, and current relations.

Note: This course is not available to BA 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.

Note: This course is not available to LLB students.

YEDU0008. New literacies for the 21st Century (3 credits)

Advances in digital technologies such as developments in social software, portable players and mobile telephones are changing how we get informed, communicate, learn, work with information, create and socialize. This broadening course on New Literacies for the 21st Century will introduce recent developments in new literacies, digital technology, communication and representation, and how these have been applied in different contexts globally and locally. The course considers new literacies as an important component of overall lifelong learning skills. These new literacies are also part of the course process; that is, engagement in the teaching and learning activities will contribute to development of students' new literacies and lifelong learning skills. Opportunities will be given to students to work in collaborative teams to develop knowledge artifacts in the form of a digital product and to reflect on their own literacy changes throughout the process using a reflective portfolio.

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, BSc and BSc(CSIS) students and BBA(IS) graduates enrolled in BEng(SE) or BEng(CompSc), 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.