

**Course Descriptions for Courses Listed for
Collaboration of Research Postgraduate Programmes
(1st Term, 2008-09)**

Postgraduate Level

ACT503 Cost and Management Accounting

This course introduces students to the basic concepts, techniques and applications of cost and management accounting. Topics include cost concepts, cost behaviour, costing systems, cost determination and allocation, standard costing and variance analysis, relevant costs, and budgetary planning and performance evaluation. Methods and techniques of cost management in the service sector and in the advanced manufacturing environment are discussed. Accounting implications for management planning, control, and decision making will be emphasised. Throughout this course, students will be expected to actively participate in class seminars and case discussions.

ACT504 Financial Accounting and Reporting

This course deals with various aspects of financial accounting and reporting. Topics covered include the financial reporting environment in Hong Kong, professional accounting standards on assets, liabilities and equity, deferred income taxes, accounting for post-retirement benefits, accounting for long-term investments, business combinations, consolidation of financial statements, and interpretation of financial statements.

ACT506 Managerial Finance

This course provides a framework for analysing the major financial decisions made by commercial firms. Issues addressed include asset valuation models, investment decision making, analysis of risk, financial planning, dividend policy, working capital management, sources of long-term financing and the cost of capital, financial mix for the firm, financial markets, and foreign exchange risk and transactions.

CHI501 Methodology of Literary Studies and Literary Theory

文學研究方法及文學理論

This course will begin with a basic introduction to MA students on ways of conducting research and move on to examine various methodologies and theories in literary studies.

CHI507 Chinese Literature in Comparative Perspective

比較文學與中國文學

This course will introduce students to various comparative approaches to Chinese literature. Comparative literary studies aim to transcend the boundaries of a national culture, a period or a particular movement, and try to study literature in relation to cultural contexts, to other bodies of knowledge and to other forms of arts.

CUS501 Perspectives in Cultural Studies

This course provides an overview of key themes, concepts, theories and issues in cultural studies. It will examine the origins and foundational texts of cultural studies as an academic discipline and an intellectual practice; discuss regional and national varieties; examine key notions and problems; and look at the position of cultural studies within and outside educational institutions. The course will also address such issues as the role of theory and analysis in the practice of cultural studies, the impact of cultural studies in government and cultural institutions; and relations to neighboring disciplines (gender studies, postcolonial studies, literature, sociology, anthropology, history, and political economy).

CUS503 Pedagogy and Cultural Studies

This core course will question the “ordinary” ways we learn to see, speak, know and experience things; that is, how we learn to behave both as subjects of our own actions and when we are subjected to the actions of others. Theoretical approaches in cultural studies to pedagogical processes formative of the person will be introduced to open up familiar aspects of our behaviour for critical discussion. These include language, memory, experience, culture, technology, knowledge, identity, and power. On the practical side, the course will examine how education as an institutional practice works to perpetuate established power relations. It will also examine how a “decolonising” approach to pedagogy can bring together learning experiences that are normally excluded or marginalised in formal education. The history and practice of education in Hong Kong will be the main focus.

CUS511f Selected Topics in Cultural Institution and Policy: Culture, Economy and Technology

This course studies the economy (and economic discourses) and technology (and technological discourses) through cultural studies and eco-political perspectives. The course is divided into three sections. Part one discusses relevant theoretical perspectives. Part two discusses the economy and economic discourses. Part three deals with technological issues and technological discourses. The main aim of the course is to understand how cultural studies and eco-political approaches help us to understand the economy (and economic discourses) and technology (and technological discourses) by analyzing the production, consumption and technology of culture on the one hand, and the cultures of production, consumption and technology on the other.

CUS512g Selected Topics in Cultural Representation and Interpretation: Music as Cultural Text

Studies on pop lyrics have constituted predominantly the cultural studies of “music” in the context of Hong Kong. This course takes a different turn and pays attention to the various dimensions of music beyond the linguistic and read them as “texts” for their cultural-political meanings. We shall analyze music in terms of/as form, style, subculture, performance, social practice and creative imagination. We shall draw on philosophical aesthetics, postcolonial criticism, feminist and gender critique, postmodernism, Marxist theory, and ethnomusicology in our quest for the meanings of music. Examining how music from European classical to Chinese traditional and contemporary pop has been talked and written about by thinkers, intellectual, critics, scholars and artists, this course engages in the production of musical meanings in everyday life via an extensive reading of Theodor Adorno, Jacques Attali, Lawrence Grossberg, Catherine Clemont, Susan McClary, Carolyn Abbate, Bernard Shaw, Edward Said, Yu Siu-wah, Fred Lau, Han Guohuang, Xu Zhanghui, Richard Wagner, and others. NO knowledge of music theory required.

CUS512j Selected Topics in Cultural Representation and Interpretation: Sexualities

This course provides students with an introduction to various discourses around sexuality as well as the histories and theories of sexual subjecthood and LBGQTQ (lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and queer) cultural politics. In examining the cultural and socio-historical construction of sexualities according to Euro-American and Chinese discursive practices, we will address some of the specific issues sexual movements are confronted with in various cultural contexts. This course seeks to expand students' understanding of the intersections between gender, politics and sexuality through an investigation of global and local lesbian and gay social movements and the more recent “queer” and “tongzhi” politics. Legal, medical and religious regulation of sexual practices and sexually-related identities, including sex work and HIV+, might also be discussed.

CUS598 Science, Technology and the Contemporary World (3 credits)

This course discusses the relations between science/technology and society/culture. How science/technology shapes our social and cultural life and how socio-cultural factors affect the development of science/technology will be examined. The course will introduce basic analytical frameworks drawing from the fields of cultural studies, feminism, sociology and the philosophy and history of science and technology to facilitate students' understanding of the socio-cultural aspects of science and technology in the contemporary world. The content and design of the course corresponds to the study area "Science, Technology & the Environment" in the New Secondary School Curriculum.

IBF501 International Money and Finance

This course lays the foundation for International Banking. It covers the exchange rate market, the balance of trade and payment, the evolution of the international monetary systems, foreign exchange risk and methods to tackle such risk, currency crisis and speculative attacks, international investment and capital flows, the international money market.

IBF502 Corporate Finance

This course covers the theory and practice of corporate finance as well as financing and investment decisions made by firms. The topics addressed in this course include the concept and techniques of cash flows valuation, risk and return analysis, capital budgeting decisions under certainty and uncertainty environments, cost of capital, capital structure theories, corporate dividend policy, working capital management, and corporate restructuring.

IBF505 Investment Theory and Applications

This course starts with an introduction to the basic utility theory under uncertainty. It then leads to the discussion on how to make optimal decision under uncertainty. It will focus on the concepts of risk and return, diversification, asset allocation and efficient markets. Upon the completion of this course, students will understand market trading structures, equity, fixed income, and derivative securities, portfolio performance strategies and evaluation methods. Students will also know how to apply these theories to the analysis of optimal investment decisions in the financial market.

IBF604 Financial Econometrics

This course provides an intensive discussion on fundamental principles of econometric analysis that help students understand finance theories and their empirical applications. In addition, it also equips students with appropriate statistical techniques for executing applied financial research. The emphasis will be on developing and applying regression-based techniques in either time series, cross-sectional, or panel data context. Their usefulness will also be examined in the light of financial studies.

IBF606 Financial Institutions in China and Hong Kong

The financial institutions in China and Hong Kong have undergone rapid changes in the last twenty years. Since the opening up of China in 1979 there has been an ongoing trend to liberalise the renminbi and to bring China's banks as well as other financial institutions to the purview of the market. In Hong Kong there have also been dramatic changes in banking regulations and prudential supervision of financial institutions. This course provides a comprehensive survey of the nature and the role of financial institutions in China and Hong Kong, and examines the various dimensions of issues about regulation and prudential supervision, and the development of such institutions.

IBF608 Banking and Finance Law in Hong Kong

The course aims to introduce students to the legal aspects of banking and financial transactions in Hong Kong. Having completed the course, students should have a firm foundation for understanding issues commonly encountered in banking and finance practice. The topics covered in this course include the regulatory framework of banking and finance, the laws relating to banking operations, and the law relating to banks and their customers.

IBF609 Globalisation and Financial Market Development

This course equips the students with a global perspective on financial market development, which is really essential for decision makers in the financial sector in fast globalisation world. The nature and the dynamics of globalisation will be explored, and the financial sector seen as both a force behind globalisation and an industry very much driven by the forces of globalisation.

Undergraduate Level

ACT350 Advanced Auditing

(Prerequisite: ACT301 Auditing)

This is the second course in auditing. The first course, ACT301, introduces the general subject matter of external auditing and provides the student with a basic understanding of key auditing concepts. This course is designed to provide a more in-depth study of auditing issues and concepts, and introduce the student to additional topics such as statistical sampling in auditing and the effects of information technology on the auditing function. Because it is difficult to convey the complexity of auditing practice with a textbook treatment, this course relies primarily on the case method.

BEH201 Human Development and Psychology of Adulthood (3 credits)

(Prerequisite(s): BEH203/GEC302 Exploring Psychology in Western and Chinese Cultures or BEH103 Introduction to Behavioural Science)

This course introduces theories on human development across the life span and explain how people change (and how they remain unchanged) over time. The course also highlights the psychology of adulthood (including young, middle, and late adulthood) in the most interesting way.

BEH325 Industrial and Organisational Psychology

(Remark: It is preferable for students to have taken BEH103 Introduction to Behavioural Science or BEH203/GEC302 Exploring Psychology in Western and Chinese Cultures before taking this course.)

This course focuses on different aspects of human behaviour in and related to the workplace to advance knowledge on the economic well-being of work organisations. A cross cultural perspective of industrial and organisational psychology, in particular China, will be provided.

BUS206 Information Systems Management

This is a managerial course designed for students to gain an understanding of the effective use of information technology in organisations nowadays. Not only the latest generation of computing, internetworking, and decision support technologies, but also the current industry trends, management concepts and approaches, business applications, social and ethical issues related to information systems are covered in the course.

BUS211 Operations Management

(Prerequisite: BUS102 Statistics for Business)

Operations Management refers to the direction and control of processes that transform inputs into finished goods and services. Operations management is a primary function of

a firm which uses the inputs to produce and deliver the goods and services to the customers. The principles and concepts learnt from this course will apply to any industry including non-profit organisations, manufacturing and service companies.

Over the past decades, firms have learned the painful lessons that neglect of the operations function can be extremely hazardous to the health of the organisation. It has been demonstrated that operations management can be an effective competitive weapon and, in conjunction with well-conceived marketing and financial plans, these firms have made major penetrations into markets worldwide. This course is designed to address the key operations and logistics issues in service and manufacturing organisations that have strategic as well as tactical implications.

CHI330 Special Topics in Chinese Language 中國語言學專題

The aim of this course is to examine a selected topic or a number of closely related topics in Chinese language that may not normally be offered under the regular curriculum. It provides an opportunity for students to study and discuss special topics not readily covered by existing courses.

本科教授一特設的語言學專題；此專題為中文系課程中未有涉及或教授者。透過此語言學專題的研讀，增進同學對特設課題的認知。

CHI331 Chinese Documentary Writing: Public Relations and Advertising 中文文書寫作：公關與廣告

This course trains students in the practical craft of preparing Chinese documents and correspondence for communication in various fields. The course mainly covers areas such as public relation and advertising. A number of written assignments are required.

本科訓練學生草擬及處理有關香港商業及對外事務文書。課程主要集中於公關及廣告。同學須以不同的相關知識，綜合應用，實踐寫作。

CUS328b Special Topics in Literary Studies: Negotiating Violence

This course will look at the theme of violence in three areas: 1) in daily life such as violence in fairy tales, school, prison, work, and home; 2) in war and conflict situations such as religious, ethnic or civil war; 3) in the marginalization or exclusion of peoples and sectors in the process of modernization and impoverishment. The course will cover fiction and non-fiction, such as novels, films, documentaries, biographies or journal reports, as well as conceptual works about violence.

CUS329c Special Topics in Socio-Political Studies : Queer Studies

Using an analytical model that resists stable identity categories, this course examines the incoherent relations between chromosomal sex, gender and sexual desire. Topics to be studied include the difference between queer and past gay/lesbian politics, cross-dressing, transsexuality, gender ambiguity, the history of same-sex love in Chinese and Euro-American cultures, and the social debate of “tongzhi” in Hong Kong in recent years.

CUS331b Topics in Cinema and Media Studies: (Techno-) Media Globalisation

(Prerequisite: CUS309/GEC309 Film and Cinema Studies)

Globalisation has undoubtedly become the most popular buzzword of our times, but more undoubtedly has been the impact of media in this process of ‘compression of time and space’. Key actors of media globalization – film, internet, TV dramas, news and advertising have led to economic and cultural transformations of societies and cultures through leaps and bounds. On the one hand, the impact of media globalization has broken cultural boundaries to arrive at the notion of ‘imagined communities’ also with the spread of global consumer culture; on the other, it has hastened the dismantling of traditional notions/ nodes of power and control, namely at the national.

This advanced course adopts a critical examination into the diverse debates around media globalization as both an outcome of broader process of globalization and itself a constituent factor of the globalization of culture and society. It guides students through the changing concepts around media globalization such as cultural imperialism, globalization and localization, national and cultural identity formation. The course, employing a textual perspective, will also discuss on how globalization has effected a change in traditional notions of genre, audience as well as distribution. Case studies such as 'Korean Wave' will be used to examine the recent intensification of media flows across Asia, while the examples of *Facebook*, *Google* and mobile phones will help students understand recent concepts around techno-media and everyday life.

ECO305 International Trade

(Prerequisite(s): ECO101 Introduction to Economics or its equivalence)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take this course if they have enrolled in ECO324 course.)

This course covers a set of basic theories about international trade as well trade policies and related issues. Topics include theories and international trade patterns, tariff and non-tariff protection in competitive and non-competitive markets, trade and the environment and regional integration. The course also covers principles of a liberal trade system (WTO) and trade liberalization.

ECO311 Economics of the Family

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Grade D or above in AL Economics, or (c) BUS105* Microeconomics for Business and BUS108 Global Business Environment)

Economics offers a way of looking at family that produces useful insight. This course will provide an introduction to the economic analysis of such socioeconomic behaviours as human capital investment, fertility, marriage, divorce, bequests, and old age support. This course is inter-discipline in nature, and is highly relevant to the issues of contemporary public and social policies.

ECO312 Health Policy

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Grade D or above in AL Economics, or (c) BUS105* Microeconomics for Business and BUS108 Global Business Environment)

This course provides analysis of health policy issues with particular reference to Hong Kong and China, but will also draw from the health reform debate overseas to shed light on the health policy problem in general. Students will use the tools of economic analysis in learning how health is the joint output of private and public sector input and lifestyle, and how different approaches in financing and designing health care delivery will affect efficiency, distribution, and the quality of health care.

ECO314 Environmental Economics

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Grade D or above in AL Economics, or (c) BUS105* Microeconomics for Business and BUS108 Global Business Environment)

This course uses the economic approach to analyse the rationale for and the design of environmental policy. The market-oriented approach to environmental policy making will be contrasted with the regulation-planning approach, and an attempt will be made to synthesise the two approaches. This course requires a basic knowledge of microeconomics.

* Recoded from ECO/BUS105

ECO315 Labour Market and Education Policy

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Grade D or above in AL Economics, or (c) BUS105* Microeconomics for Business and BUS108 Global Business Environment)

This course provides students with an introduction to the economics of education and manpower. It analyses the roles of government policies in the areas of education and manpower, with reference to the current policy debate in Hong Kong on these matters.

ECO321 FDI and Multinationals in China

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Grade D or above in AL Economics, or (c) BUS105* Microeconomics for Business and BUS108 Global Business Environment)

This course studies the roles of foreign trade, foreign direct investment (FDI) and technology transfer in the rapid growth of the Chinese economy during the past two decades, how they interact with one another, and how they are influenced by such factors as government policy, global strategy of multinational companies, and China's entry to the World Trade Organisation.

ECO323 Financial Economics

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Grade D or above in AL Economics, or (c) BUS105* Microeconomics for Business and BUS108 Global Business Environment)

This course approaches the subject of financial economics from a practitioner's point of view. It provides a general introduction of financial institutions and markets, their management, financial theory and policy. Students will learn why the financial system is organised as it is and how the financial system and real economy are interconnected. The students will have an in-depth look at financial markets and institutions and will learn how to apply academic concepts to a business environment. Case studies will keep students abreast on financial news and current trends in the financial market place.

ENG375 Cross-cultural Studies of Literature

Analysing and comparing texts from two independent cultural traditions, this course introduces students to the principles of cross-cultural research. Readings will be selected from poetry, narrative, and drama in the Western and Chinese canon around a thematic of generic "constant" to facilitate meaningful comparison. Comparisons will be explored around set themes - whether romantic love, friendship, war - or specific literary kinds - satire, allegory fantasy.

ENG386 The Short Story in English

The short story is one of the most accessible and enjoyable of literary forms. It can deal with many themes, ranging from very personal concerns like love, identity, sexuality, loss, and family life, all the way through to social issues such as the relationship between the individual and society, freedom and unfreedom, gender, race, mortality, lying, and self-deception. Studying short fiction is a great way to improve your English comprehension and writing. This course will discuss the history of the short story, from the fairy tale to the present day; narrative techniques used in short stories; and it will focus on a set of complex and fascinating moral issues. You can also try your hand at short story writing, if you wish!

FIN300 Investment and Portfolio Management

(Prerequisite: BUS201 Financial Management)

This course helps students understand the key concepts and principles of investment and

* Recoded from ECO/BUS105

portfolio management, which build a solid foundation for further study or career pursuit. The topics addressed include the setting of investment and security analysis; efficient market hypothesis; survey of investment instruments and valuation methods; portfolio theories; asset pricing models; bond portfolio management, term structure of interest rates; and measurements of portfolio performance.

HRM351 Management of Innovation and Change

(Prerequisite: BUS202 Organisational Behaviour or other relevant course approved by the Head of the Department of Management)

This course provides students with principles for diagnosing, understanding and implementing organizational change, which may range in nature from incremental to 'big bang' change, and from realignment to transformation in terms of the impact on the assumptions and beliefs that govern action and decisions. This includes examination of the process and context of innovation. The course also examines the strategic role of leadership and Human Resource Management in signalling, driving and supporting technical, political, structural and cultural change, in creating climates of creativity suitable for the implementation of innovation strategies, and in moving towards the ideals of the 'learning organisation'.

HRM356 Japanese Management

Under the liberal arts education philosophy, the course is provided to broaden students' perspectives by studying a management system – Japanese management – which is rather different from the Western system. This elective is designed to develop student's understanding of the myth of Japanese human resources management practices. This requires the students to be exposed to a number of conceptual and theoretical issues, before critically examining the actual patterns of Japanese management practices. By the end of the course, the students should be equipped with the necessary knowledge to explain the patterns of employment practices in contemporary Japan, understand their interaction and change over time, and appreciate how Japanese organisations manage their employment relations. The concept of ethical leadership, uses and abuses of corporate power in Japanese society and corporations will be emphasised throughout the course.

HST356 History of Nineteenth Century Europe

This course adopts a narrative framework with the goals of analysing both the forces of change and continuity in nineteenth century Europe. The major threads include revolutions, industrialisation, nation states, liberalism, and imperialism.

MKT311 Salesmanship and Sales Management

(Prerequisite: BUS205 Marketing Management)

(Note: Minor students in Financial Services Marketing who have passed MKT214 Marketing for Financial Services will be exempted from the pre-requisite requirement of this course.)

The course helps students to develop the sales techniques in personal selling and in-depth knowledge of the principles and concepts underlying sales management. The course is a continuation of the Marketing Management course that emphasises on learning the strategic relevance of a key component of the overall company marketing strategy. The objective of this course is to develop students to be professional sales managers through the career in personal selling. The major emphasis of the course is to provide students with a proven body of management knowledge that can be used to cope with the dynamic environment of selling. Students are expected to reflect on their own personal development, integrate their liberal arts experience with business education through role-plays, case studies, fieldworks and class presentations, and develop their own skills and perspectives for solving major problems facing a field salesperson and a sales manager.

MKT353 Services Marketing

(Prerequisite: BUS205 Marketing Management)

In view of the recent emergence of the modern service-centred economies, this course is to acquaint students with the unique characteristics of services and their marketing implications. Students will understand the problems and challenges facing a services marketer, the frameworks for developing a service marketing strategy, the applications of these frameworks and concepts in the Hong Kong economy and the recent developments in services marketing. It also serves to integrate what students have learnt in previous courses through comprehensive case studies, role-play exercises, and group projects.

PHI324 Utopia 烏托邦

Utopia is an image of what the good life would be. Sometimes it goes beyond that image and becomes a claim about what it could and should be. Utopia is then not just a dream to be enjoyed but a vision to be pursued. But the question whether utopia is not escapist nonsense or an impossible fantasy, any serious pursuit of which would lead to social and political disasters, imposes heavy burden on those utopians who seek to make their dreams come true. This course sets out to examine both the theoretical and practical dimensions of utopia in its complex forms of manifestation as well as in its multi-layered relations to other notions such as social order, ultimate freedom and romantic love. As one major case study, the utopian aspects of the Maoist mentality in contemporary Chinese communist experiments will be analysed with an eye to its implications for the broader issues in this course.

PHI373 Cinema and Philosophy 電影與哲學

A number of major philosophers have written about the cinema, raising a wide range of issues about the artistic and expressive means and functions of audio-visual representations. This course surveys a variety of these philosophical writings and issues related to cinema.

PHI399b Special Topics: Evolution and Human Nature

An exploration of the contemporary theory of evolution and its relevance in explaining some important aspects of human behavior.

POL307 APEC and Regional Co-operation

This course examines the Asian Pacific region's efforts to promote regional cooperation and integration, primarily through the medium of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

RIM351 Property and Liability Insurance

(Prerequisites: (a) RIM200 Principles of Risk Management and (b) RIM201 Principles of Insurance)

The course aims to provide students with basic knowledge, both in principle and in practice, in areas of property, pecuniary, and liability insurance. Property insurance include marine, fire, theft, money, marine, homeowner, motorcare, travel, and contractors' all risks insurance. Pecuniary insurance includes credit, loss of profit, surety, legal expenses and fidelity insurance. Liability insurance includes professional indemnity, employers' liability and employees' compensation, and public liability and products liability insurance.

SOC324 Work and Occupation

The intellectual backbone of this course examines the process through which work becomes more and more specialised; transformation of specialisation into stratification

and inequality; and the organisation of work in modern workplaces and societies. Within this framework, the course will examine such topics as work ethics, professionalism, work and family, work and gender, and work and the elderly, and the impact of technology on work. Throughout these discussions, the course will inject work in Hong Kong context to enhance students' understanding of the local situation.

SOC327 Social Welfare and Social Problems in Hong Kong

This course provides students with conceptual tools to understand and analyse social problems and social welfare policies in a cross-national perspective. They will be equipped to apply these analytical principles to contemporary social welfare and social security in Hong Kong.

SSC202 Politics and Economics of Contemporary China

This course provides an introduction to Chinese politics and economy. The focus is on the political and economic institutions, political movements and economic developments, and the external political and economic relations. The course will cover developments under the regimes of Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and the new leadership of Hu and Wen. Basic theories, interpretations and data related to the development of contemporary China will be discussed.

TRA205 Literary Translation A (C-E)

This course will introduce students to approaches to translating Chinese literature into English. Students will learn to identify the linguistic, stylistic and cultural features of literary texts in Chinese, and to formulate strategies for translating those works into English. This will be done by studying and comparing existing translations, and translating previously untranslated texts. The course will concentrate on prose and fiction in modern Chinese, though translation of poetry and drama may also be introduced.

TRA209 Translation of Texts in Popular Culture (E-C & C-E)

This course will focus on the translation of creative works of popular culture in both the English- and the Chinese-speaking worlds (Hong Kong in particular). Selected texts from areas such as movies, popular music, advertisements, and TV programmes will be used as materials for translation practice. Concepts, practices and research in audiovisual and multimedia translation will be introduced. Students will be encouraged to discuss the semiotic and pragmatic specificities of multimodal and multimedia translation on the one hand, and how cultural elements work in the process of translating texts which may involve dialects, subcultures and local cultural interests of different societies on the other hand.

TRA221 Topics in Bilingual Studies: Love in Chinese and Western Literatures

This course aims to study the concept of love in Chinese and Western literatures approaching it through extensive discussion in both Chinese and English. Literary works will be selected from the genres of myth, legend, poetry, and short stories for a critical appreciation of their exposition of perfect love, transcendent love, self-love, selfless love, forbidden love, unrequited love ("boudoir grief"), sexuality, and familial relationship. The literary works will be studied with reference to the concept of love as expounded by various schools of thought in the Chinese and Western traditions.

VIS353 Non-fiction Film 非小說類電影

Non-fiction film-making encompasses a wide range of genres and serves many different purposes. This type of film-making raises important questions having to do with the ontology of images, authorial intention, perception, cognition, truth, and fiction. Drawing on cinematic examples from early to contemporary cinema, and from diverse national contexts, this course foregrounds the formal complexities of non-fiction films in order to

explore their theoretical and practical implications.

VIS354 Contemporary Art

This course will examine major theories, practices and institutions that have shaped the world of contemporary art from the 1960s to the present-day. The highly diversified forms and versatile newly emerged media of visual arts during the period make it difficult to categorise contemporary art. The practices of contemporary art are located in relation to intellectual and social movements such as post-modernism, feminism, orientalism, ecology and globalisation. The course will take an interdisciplinary approach, looking at various forms and new media of contemporary art such as multi-media, installation, performance, and digital art. It will survey the different critical, theoretical and aesthetic debates underlying the development of contemporary art. Under the increasing impact of globalisation, contemporary artists often face the challenge of how to reconcile cultural conflicts between East and West. Contemporary Chinese art serves to illustrate this issue and other issues having to do with artists' identities, art markets and contemporary aesthetics.

VIS355 Environmental Aesthetics and the Visual Environment

This course is an exploration of environmental aesthetics with special emphasis on visual landscapes and environmental art from a cross-cultural perspective. It aims to acquaint students with past and ongoing reflections and cultural practices related to the visual environment. It is designed to enhance basic reasoning, appreciative, and expressive skills, as well as to promote an enhanced understanding of a number of central issues raised by the appreciation of nature, gardens, landscapes, and other aspects of the visual environment.

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