Course Title : Culture and the Modern World I
Course Code : CUS 2405
Recommended Study Year : 2
No. of Credits/Term : 3
Mode of Tuition : Lecture-Tutorial
Class Contact Hours : 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog. : Required Course
Prerequisite(s) : None
Co-requisite(s) : None
Exclusion(s) : None

Brief Course Description : This course is linked to, and normally the prerequisite of, Culture and the Modern World II. These two courses together provide students with the basic theoretical and historical knowledge to understand the significance of culture in the modern world, including the grasping of the relationship between changing concepts of ‘culture’ and ‘modernity’.

Aims : (1) To give the students an introduction to cultural theories and themes of modern culture and society
(2) To provide the students with a guided appreciation of the western project of Enlightenment
(3) To examine institutional, value and experiential aspects of modernity
(4) To help the students to reflect upon the experience of the ‘western’ model of modernity

Learning Outcomes : On completion of the course, students should be able to:
(1) Identify the basic concepts essential for understanding the relations between culture and modern social life;
(2) Describe the characteristics of culture and value system in modern societies
(3) Explain the principles of how modern social institutions are organized;
(4) Analyze how modern social institutions have effects on everyday experiences;
(5) Evaluate different positions in defense of the Enlightenment project.
Indicative Content:
1. The Project of Western Modernity: The Enlightenment
   a. Sources of Enlightenment ideas
   b. Historical Impact of the Enlightenment in Europe
2. Institutional Dimensions of Modernity
   a. Industrialism or Capitalism?
   b. Power, Bureaucracy and The State
   c. Class, Race and Gender in Modern Society
3. Culture and Values in Modernity
   a. Religion and Ideology
   b. Modernisms and Romanticisms
   c. Anti-modern currents in art
4. Modernity and Its Futures
   a. The Defence of the Enlightenment Project
   b. Reflexivity and Modernity

Teaching Method:
- Lectures
- Tutorials: students are required to do presentations in teams, to write up reading notes; and to discuss assigned articles

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:
(The numbers in brackets indicate corresponding ILOs)
1. Examination measures the student’s effective command of the knowledge, concepts and theories learned in class. They are required to explain the concepts and to conduct informed discussions of broad issues of modern culture (1-5)
2. Tutorial requires students to give coherent oral presentation of assigned readings (1-3)
3. Written assignments measure the students’ ability to summarize and organize the essentials (3, 4, 5)
4. Class participation indicates how the students apply the concepts critically (1, 2)
5. Term paper measures students’ ability to organize and defend arguments by making use of the concepts (1-5)

Assessments:
- Oral Presentation 10%
- Short written Assignments 10%
- Class Participation 10%
- Term Paper 40%
- Examination 30%
Required/Essential Readings:


Recommendation/Supplementary Readings:


Important Notes:
1. Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 2 hours of class contact and 7 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
2. Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
3. Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
4. To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on https://pla.ln.edu.hk/.