

Course Title	: Special Topics in Digital Culture & Media Practices
Course Code	: CUS3009
Recommended Study Year	: Year 3 to Year 4
No. of Credits/ Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional Approach
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category	: Elective
	Area of Concentration: Digital Culture and Media Practices (from 2019-20 intake)
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s)	: Nil
Exemption Requirements	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

This advanced-level course studies a special topic in digital culture and media practices. While focusing on a selected set of questions for intensive study, the course works with a flexible scope and adopts an open attitude to the disciplinary formation of knowledge. It provides an opportunity to deal with issues pertinent to the contemporary developments of digital culture and media practices with implications for Cultural Studies. Specific topics may vary from year to year, but typically involve the examination of digital culture and media practices in relation to the processes of local/global cultural production in our time.

Aims:

1. To introduce students to some important and exemplary works in the study of digital culture and media practices;
2. To foster students' understanding of the relevant intellectual debates and critical frameworks around issues of digital culture and media practices from interdisciplinary perspectives;
3. To enable students to focus on a specific topic and examine how it is approached from varying conceptual perspectives and sociocultural positions.

Learning Outcomes (LO):

By the end of the course, students shall be able:

1. To demonstrate knowledge of exemplary works through explication of conceptual tools and thematic issues in digital culture and media practices;
2. To analyze issues of digital culture and media practices from interdisciplinary perspectives;
3. To apply tools of media practice and criticism on the specific topic studied in the context of contemporary cultures.

Indicative Contents:

Specific contents to be covered may vary from year to year in the fields of digital culture and media practices. Working on the specific set of problems and tasks selected, students are expected to integrate theory with practice and relate the topic area to the local contexts and global developments in digital cultural production and media practices.

Appendix VI Syllabi of the new courses

Teaching Method:

1. Seminar presentations on selected texts supplemented with multi-media materials to identify critical issues around the special topic concerned; analytical frameworks will be provided to facilitate in-depth analysis by the class.
2. Seminar discussions and/or practical exercises to induce diverse perspectives and enhance students' capacity to engage in critical dialogue as well as pragmatic problems on the topic.
3. Students will be guided to work on individual or group projects involving the use of materials drawn from a variety of disciplines, cultures and media. Students will present their project findings in class for sharing and discussion.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes (LO):

1. Seminar work requires students to identify and describe aspects of the current debates and issues. Guided projects require students to research on various perspectives concerning current debates and examine closely relevant issues in the topic. (LO 1, 2, 3)
2. Oral presentations test students' knowledge, skills and ability to analyze cases of digital culture and media practice. (LO 1, 2, 3)
3. Term project and essays require students' to apply critical frameworks for addressing the cultural issues at stake in relation to the relevant contexts. (LO 2, 3)

Assessment:

Continuous Assessment: 100% (Seminar presentation and participation 50%, term project and essays 50%)

Essential Readings:

Will vary from year to year according to each specific topic.

Supplementary Readings:

Will vary from year to year according to each specific topic.

Important Notes:

1. Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 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/>.

Appendix VII Course integration with the current Area of Concentration

New Courses to be added under the current AoC :

- 1) The following new courses will be added to and integrated with our current Area of Concentration, and be recommended to BACS majors up to the 2018-2019 intake, as follows:

A. Education & Liberal Studies

CUS3004 Media, Gender, and Sexuality
CUS3006 Social Drama and Everyday Life
CUS3007 Social Media Literacy

B. Community & Cultural Policy

CUS3003 Media and Creative Industries
CUS3005 Media Networks and Everyday Life
CUS3006 Social Drama and Everyday Life

C. Creativity and Media Studies

CUS3001 Curating Digital Practice
CUS3002 Curating Performance and Cultural Practice
CUS3003 Media and Creative Industries
CUS3004 Media, Gender, and Sexuality
CUS3005 Media Networks and Everyday Life
CUS3007 Social Media Literacy

- 2) All the newly proposed courses, except Capstone Project, will be counted as programme electives for all CUS majors.