Course Title : Special Topics in Socio-Political Studies

Course Code : CUS3329

Recommended Study Year : 3-4

No. of Credits/Term : 3

Mode of Tuition : Sectional Approach

Class Contact Hours : 3 hours per week

Category in Major Prog. : Elective

Prerequisite(s) : Nil

Co-requisite(s) : Nil

Exclusion(s) : Nil

Brief Course Description : This advanced-level course will study a special topic or a number of closely related topics in socio-political studies with a flexible scope and an open attitude to the disciplinary formation of knowledge. It provides an opportunity to deal with issues of socio-political studies with implications for Cultural Studies. Specific topics may vary from year to year, but will typically involve reading of classic sociological or political works in relation to the processes of local/global cultural production of knowledge.

Aims : 1. to introduce to students some classic and exemplary works on socio-political studies;
2. to help students acquire critical frameworks in articulating social or political issues from interdisciplinary and intercultural perspectives;
3. to enable students to focus on a specific topic and examine how it is approached from varying conceptual or political positions.

Learning Outcomes : Students will be able to
1. understand various conceptual tools in the handling of a particular theme on socio-political studies;
2. apply tools of criticism on specific socio-political topics of daily life in the contemporary world;
3. analyze socio-political issues from interdisciplinary and intercultural perspectives.

Indicative Content : Films, documentaries, biographies or journal reports on a specific socio-political topic such as development, modernization, violence, global warming, financial crisis, food security. Students are expected to relate the topics to the context and recent developments in Hong Kong, mainland China, or globally. Specific content to be covered may vary from year to year.

Teaching Method : Seminars will be conducted, where students will discuss selected journalistic, historical and political texts.
Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

1. Class discussion and oral presentation to measure students’ skills in presenting various debates or arguments on the topic;
2. Written assignment and oral presentation to measure students’ ability in identifying the social and historical contexts of the specific issues;
3. Final examination to measure students’ grasp of the conceptual works and their application to the topic under study.

Assessment:

Students are assessed on the basis of 70% Continuous Assessment, and 30% Final Examination with the following grade distribution:

- Participation in class discussion [10%]
- Seminar presentations [20%]
- Term paper [40%]
- Final Examination [30%]

Required/Essential Readings:

Will be provided to students to match the content of the course.