

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

CLB9001 Masterpieces in Chinese Literature 中國文學名著選讀 (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Chinese)

This course introduces students to the masterpieces of Chinese literature from Pre-Qin (先秦) to the twentieth-century. It consists of lectures indicating the themes, ideas and the skills of writing of the major genres of Chinese literature on the traditional as well as modern literary master works. This course examines the aesthetic contribution of Chinese literature to Chinese culture and the wider global community.

This course may implement a Service – Learning scheme as an alternative. The scheme enables students to transfer knowledge from the university program to the community. The scheme aims at cultivating an understanding of experiential learning and real-world application of knowledge that could be a tool of improvement of family dynamic and relationship. Students will teach the community how to read the masterpieces and appreciate the traditional Chinese values and familial virtues.

CLB9002 Chinese-Language Literature in Global Contexts

全球語境下的中文文學 (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Chinese)

This course introduces students to the study of the selected major works of Chinese-language literature in global contexts.

CLB9003 Cross-cultural Studies of Children's Fantasy Literature (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Chinese and English)

This course introduces students to the rich and expanding area of children's fantasy literature both in Chinese and in English. As well as reviewing the various definitions of children's fantasy literature and surveying the key texts and movements that have shaped this literature genre, the course will focus on the reception of these fantasies. Different renditions of the classic children's fantasy literature will be studied. How Chinese and English fantasies are received and perceived cross-culturally will also be explored in terms of a broader understanding of translation. The key thematic focus will be on "cross-cultural imagination".

CLB9004 Topics in World Literature: Literary Utopianism (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua) and English)

This course explores a theme of timeless relevance—the visualization of an ideal society—via important texts in the literary and intellectual traditions of China, Europe and India. Attention will be paid to artistic features, cultural premises and -historical contexts. The topical platform fosters cross-cultural comparisons, as ancient and modern texts offer longitudinal perspectives on cultural-intellectual orientations, literary expressions and antithetical (anti-utopian) views.

CLB9005 Evolution of Chinese Language 漢語通論 (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Chinese)

This course offers an introduction to both classical and modern Chinese language, with emphasis on the characteristics and evolution of Chinese characters, phonology, lexicon and grammar. It aims at cultivating in the students a deeper knowledge of Chinese language.

CLB9006 Media Literacy (3 credits)

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop an overall understanding of the complexity of mass media messages and their meanings in our everyday lives. Media literacy concerns both production and consumption of messages – writing, reading, speaking, listening. Emphasis is thus on developing critical skills to “read” media messages, and to reflect on the media industries which are responsible for producing these messages. It is expected that students, after taking this course, will develop basic skills to critically analyse the process of media making from different perspectives, including gender, cultural, and ethical ones. Through discussion, reading, group projects, role playing and other work, students will be expected to gain an understanding into the complex role of mass media in our culture’s development, and most importantly, our lives.

CLB9007 Why Classical Music Matters (3 credits) (deleted from 2018-19)

Western classical music is an integral part of daily life across many cultural and national boundaries. Understanding the art of classical music and its use in diversified and synergic social life will greatly enrich and enhance students’ life-long, whole person development. The aim of this course is to initiate students with little or no experience of classical music into the world of this cultural treasure. Students will be led through well-known examples of classical music to appreciate the great value of this art in its own terms. In addition, students will also be introduced to the practical use of music in the careers marketplace. The syllabus covers major musical styles, forms, composers, virtuoso players, the technology of music, and the representation of classical music in films, TV and advertisements. Students will discover how classical music has been an important creative source to these media that they are familiar with. No knowledge of music theory and history is required.

CLB9009 The Origin and Functions of Art (3 credits)

The course aims to introduce students to the origin and functions of art in human history. It intends to arouse student interest in using an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the meaning of art to man and society. It begins with the question of where art comes from. By studying the artifacts of Neolithic times and primitive cultures, it investigates the behaviour and theory of human creativity from a bio-behavioural perspective. It then proceeds to see how ‘art’ began and has become an important component in different civilisations. By scrutinizing a large spectrum of artifacts and art works of different times and places, it will examine the social and cultural contexts of art.

CLB9010 An Introduction to Chinese *Kunqu* and Peking Operas Appreciation **中國戲曲—京崑藝術欣賞 (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: Putonghua)

Chinese theatre has had a far-reaching influence on shaping Chinese language and culture. Among all 360 traditional Chinese operas and theatre performing arts, *Kunqu* Opera and Peking Opera have taken the leading positions in the domain. *Kunqu* Opera was recently awarded “non-material World Cultural Heritage in China” by UNESCO, and Peking Opera is the form which has become the national opera of China. This latter form has surpassed all other types since the 19th century. Influenced primarily by *Kunqu* Opera, Peking Opera has been able to integrate various kinds of Chinese opera and performing arts. This course introduces a basic knowledge of *Kunqu* Opera and Peking Opera. Through multimedia materials, students will have the opportunity to appreciate, analyse and practice basic singing in Peking Opera and *Kunqu* Opera. Students will be required to discuss and present their selected topics during the class. Professionals will be also invited to deliver seminars and demonstrations of various styles of Opera Arts.

In addition to lectures, arrangements will be made to attend theater performances to

appreciate Peking Opera and *Kunqu* Opera performances. Students will also be given opportunities to practice with performers. At the end of term, the students will be required to submit a paper to demonstrate what they have gained.

CLB9011 Music Appreciation: the Western Classical Tradition (3 credits)
(deleted from 2018-19)

This course, which is open to all students, focuses on a limited number of representative musical works in the Western Classical Tradition. Bi-weekly musical case studies will spotlight such significant historical and cultural issues as the development of a written tradition, the relationship between music and Christianity, the shifting role of performance, the dominance of piano culture, and the rise of Nationalism. The introduction to the main elements of music as theorised in the West: melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, timbre and articulation, also represents an integral part of the course.

The primary focus will be on the works themselves and ancillary materials will be used to give a greater depth of knowledge. For example, the class will take a trip to a live classical concert, opera videos will be used to augment the listening experience, etc. Students will discuss each work in historical and cultural perspectives, allowing them to put music within the larger context of their university education. Topics are chosen to give a good historical grounding, which will then enable cross-period discussion of the development of a genre, i.e., piano music in the 19th century versus the 20th century, the development of opera as indicating societal change, musical interpretation and performance changes, etc. In addition, the course will give students a better understanding of the roles served by classical music and how this can help them in their own real-world functioning.

CLB9012 *The Four Books and Chinese Intellectual Tradition*
《四書》與中國士人傳統 (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Chinese)

This course introduces students to the basic concepts of Confucian humanism contained in the four great Confucian texts—*The Four Books*—and examines the formation and transformation of Chinese intellectual tradition. It provides students with an in-depth study of selected passages from *The Analects of Confucius (Lunyu)*, *Mencius (Mengzi)*, *The Great Learning (Daxue)*, as well as *The Doctrine of the Mean (Zhongyong)*.

CLB9013 Dialogue Interpreting: Chinese and English (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua) and English)

The acts of translating and interpreting are more commonplace than people imagine. Their practice and application in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual society such as Hong Kong are in fact all around us. This course examines the linguistic, cultural, and contextual considerations in the rendition of verbal utterances in exchanges between Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua) and English in general, daily, and non-technical situations.

This course discusses ways in which dialogue interpreting does much more than simply interpret. It introduces how dialogue interpreters translate and coordinate dialogues in cross-linguistic and cross-cultural contexts. As cases in point, “yes”, “no”, and “maybe” cannot be taken at their face value if these are uttered in a mainland Chinese context. Dialogue interpreting is therefore considered intercultural mediation at work, and it is defined as interpreter-mediated communication in spontaneous face-to-face interactions. In such exchanges, the interpreter selects information and asks and provides clarification as ways of supporting speakers in the interaction.

Viewing the interpreter as a gatekeeper, coordinator and negotiator of meanings within a three-way interaction, this course offers insight into the processes at work when two

people talk with the help of an interpreter. Simple and short texts of general exchanges on naturally occurring and interpreted face-to-face interaction will be used to illustrate the cooperative principles of quantity, quality, relation, and manner in interpreted exchanges. Further topics include bilingual knowledge of terminologies and expressions in food items, cooking style, Chinese dishes, physical discomfort, common medical terms, and English usage in working setting, for example, the way to agree, disagree, and to interrupt.

CLB9014 Food, Culture and Identity (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: English supplemented with Cantonese)

Not only is food vital for survival, it is also a substance that is important to the construction of cultures and identities. Indeed, whether it is the sense of robust unpretentiousness that is often associated with the American hamburger or the meticulous attentiveness of the *kaiseki ryori* 懷石料理, there are undeniable similarities behind the process of associating one type of food to a particular nationality and the imagination/construction of that national identity. The study of the gastronomical practices of one group of people, thus, provides a unique and an effective means to gain introspective insights into the forming of various cultural traditions as well as to facilitate the understanding of the process of the formation of cultural identity.

By focusing on the various representations of food in both Chinese and Western cultures, in different mediums that include but are not limited to the literary and the visuals, this course challenges students to look beyond the idea of food as simply a nourishment and to consider the inherent relationship between food and cultural identity in both the Eastern and Western contexts and its translational importance as a means for facilitating cultural exchanges.

CLB9015 The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (3 credits) (deleted from 2019-20)

Using Sergio Leone's *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* (one of the "TIME 100 Greatest Movies of the Last Century," its film title now an idiomatic expression in English) as a starting point, this course introduces students to cultural and artistic expressions of a fundamental in human existence—good and evil. Students will study the expressions of the good, the bad, and the ugly in relation to human feelings, needs, and desires in film, television, the performing arts, and literary writing. Crossing temporal, geographical and cultural boundaries and via various artistic forms, students analyze the related themes of the beautifully ugly and the grotesque, truth and justice, virtues and vices, power and corruption, playing god, angels and demons, crime and punishment, revenge and forgiveness, war and peace, utopia and dystopia, multiculturalism and racism, cultural imperialism and colonialism.

CLB9016 Understanding Museums (3 credits)

This survey course introduces students to the histories, functions and practices of museums. It will examine the different ways of defining museums, followed by topics broadly divided into the following categories: histories, collections, display, audience and the museum profession. The course takes a critical approach to the study of museums in both Western and Asian cultural contexts. It will highlight past and current issues and the often contested roles that museums are expected to play in society.

This course aims to introduce students to the study of museums and museum work as a profession. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of notable museums around the world. You will also gain a better understanding of the historical development and functions of museums as well as the challenges involved in museum work. The course will also enable students to respond more critically to collection management, exhibition design, museum education and their implications.

CLB9017 Screening China 銀幕中國 (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Cantonese)

The course introduces students to facets of the image-making of China through a representative selection from mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong cinemas. The selected films are examined in their cultural, political and historical contexts with a particular emphasis on issues such as nationhood, identity, urbanization, gender, historical and social changes, and globalization.

CLB9018 Thinking Like an Anthropologist (3 credits)

This course aims at providing the students with a basic understanding of the diversity of human culture and society in the world. The pedagogical approach of this course is designed to teach the students with diverse academic or professional backgrounds to think *like* an anthropologist. The course is structured around a number of key questions, which are drawn mainly from cultural anthropology and are foundational for all branches of the humanities. By discussing these key questions, students will learn what it means to be human and its diverse possibilities. Other than rendering the strange familiar and the familiar strange, the course will help the students to develop insight into how the seemingly most practical and commonsensical aspects of any person's life can be most broadly informed by the shifting cultural and social contexts of which they consider themselves a part.

CLB9019 Childhood, Youth and Culture (3 credits)

This course brings together key themes and issues in the area of childhood and youth studies by providing diverse theoretical perspectives on the study of children and youth across the disciplines in arts, humanities, and social sciences. It pays particular attention to the socio-historical contexts in which "children" and "youth" have been defined, accepted and challenged in history. The course also problematizes the major institutional sites, such as family, school and media, which are closely related to a person's growth from birth to adolescence and adulthood. While focusing on the representation of children and youth in advertisement, television, film, arts and government policies, this course enables students to reflect upon their personal experiences, and to explore the agency of children and youth.

CLB9020 Understanding Language in Film (3 credits)

The course is designed as an introduction to understanding how language operates within films and how verbal language connects with different aspects of the visual narrative of films. The course is conceived with the aim of raising students' interest and awareness of linguistic, literary, aesthetic, and cross-cultural issues by exploring various aspects of language as a theme in films. The course encourages students to consider the roles that language plays in narrative films by fostering students' critical and analytical skills from a wide range of perspectives. With an aim to develop as many opportunities for meaningful communication in English, the course will help students appreciate the nuances of language within the context of films as literary and cultural texts.

CLB9021 Cross-Cultural Studies of the Supernatural in Literature (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Cantonese/ Putonghua and English)

This course is a guide to the genre of supernatural literature in both Chinese and English. There are two major emphases. First, students will learn to appreciate the required texts critically through close reading. Attention will be paid to their literary forms and techniques and socio-historical contexts. Second, taking 'supernatural' in the most general sense, this course will examine the origin and development of the supernatural in the Chinese and English literary traditions. Third, translation issues will be brought to light by comparing translated works in this genre.

CLB9022 Music and World Cultures (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the diversity and range of musical expression. Assuming no previous musical training, it will explore how the musics and musical instruments of different world cultures share common fundamental characteristics. At the same time, it will demonstrate the uniqueness of the music produced by any given culture. In examining both the commonalities and differences across different world musics, the course will also show how cultures apply music to an array of art forms (e.g. dance, theatre) and social contexts (e.g. religion, political revolution). It will analyse the role of music in these combined art forms and enriched creative expressions. Students will listen to and watch a range of musical recordings and performances, and critically evaluate these through discussion and writing and the reading of relevant scholarship.

CLB9023 Zombies in Fiction (3 credits) (deleted from 2020-21)

This course encourages students to explore the major questions of a liberal arts education via the popular figure of the zombie: what does it mean to be human? What should our relationship be to the other? What is our place in the universe? Zombie fiction is an expression of some of our deepest anxieties about humanity and its survival. The figure of the zombie also serves as a metaphor for key issues of our contemporary life such as consumerism, racial difference and environmental disaster, to name a few. This course provides students with the opportunity to test their own ideas about humanity, life and death, morality, and survival, against the fiction they read.

CLB9024 English in Popular Song (3 credits)

This course is designed as an introduction to English language song across a range of periods, genres, styles and topics. From the 20th century onwards, English has become the major international language for song writing and listening. However, the close relationship between song and poetry in earlier centuries will provide a starting point, and songs in Shakespeare plays, for example, will be heard and explored. Folk ballads and folk songs will also be read and listened to in order to arouse critical interest and discussion. Later song styles and forms will also be experienced and discussed in the course, with an emphasis on more recent and contemporary singer-songwriters of the 20th and early 21st centuries from the age of Blues, Jazz and early Rock'n Roll to significant Pop, Rock, Rap, Hip-hop and Stage Musical examples by the eclectic artists of today, whose work bears the influence of all these styles. The relationship between musical melody and song lyrics will be listened to, and lyrical devices and sonic effects will also be studied. The influence of music video (e.g. MTV) will be considered in relation to word-image juxtaposition, as will the recent phenomenon of 'mash-up', i.e. splicing two very different songs together which raises challenging issues of copyright and ownership. Students will have the opportunity to present their favourite songwriters and songs in their presentation and sharing assignment. No musical experience or knowledge is required, only an open mind and a ready ear (or better still, two).

CLB9025 Love and Sexuality (3 credits) What is love? Should we love our family more than strangers? What is romantic love and how is it related to sexuality? This course discusses several approaches to love and sexuality from different traditions and times. Among the main issues discussed, are: what is the essence of love, how can it be best understood, are some people more deserving of love than others, how will future developments of technology and society might affect our understanding of love?

CLB9026 Beauty (3 credits) (deleted from 2020-21)

This course discusses the nature of beauty and how beauty is connected to a variety of other aspects of our life and culture. For instance, some have argued that beauty is evil, an instrument of the devil, while others have claimed that beauty is a manifestation of the divine. Beauty is sometimes said to be in the eyes of the beholder, and other times it is

said to be a property that certain objects or organisms may have in virtue of the arrangement of their parts (e.g., in virtue of the *harmonious* combination of some of their parts). Sometimes also abstract thoughts or mathematical theorems are described as beautiful. In addition to the previous ideas, we will discuss: (i) the relationship between love and beauty, (ii) the concept of beauty in various Asian traditions (e.g., the Japanese concept of *wabi-sabi*), (iii) human beauty, (iv) environmental beauty, (v) functional beauty, (vi) artistic beauty, and (vii) various literary and philosophical descriptions of beautiful entities.

**CLB9027 Topics in World Literature: Women in Traditional Societies 世界文學論
題：傳統社會中的女性 (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: Bilingual (i.e., in Cantonese/Putonghua and English) in accordance with the language of the original/translated texts.)

This course offers an introduction to philosophical, religious and “scientific” conceptions of women through a comparative study of literary and related texts in the Chinese and non-Chinese (mainly Western) traditions. Students will examine ideas and practices that are partly universal and partly time/culture-bound. Attention will be paid to fostering a broad-minded understanding of literary and cultural developments from their beginnings to the modern age.

CLB9028 Ecology and Chinese Cinema (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: English*)

This course is a survey of Chinese ecocinema--films that manifest ecological concerns and address environmental issues in Chinese film history. Students will explore a wide range of cinematic representations of ecological problems in China, and investigate cultural implications of these problems. Attention will be paid to developing humanistic understanding of environmental issues and reflecting on their cultural roots. Film screening will be scheduled outside class meetings.

(* Although all courses are taught in English except otherwise specified in this Course Description Section, the language of instruction of this course is explicitly stated for clarity.)

CLB9029 Science Fiction in Literature and Visual Arts (3 credits)

This course is intended to introduce students to some of the major works and themes in science-fiction (SF) literature and visual arts. The course will discuss contemporary and classic SF authors and provide historical and theoretical background to understand their works. SF has been highly influential in popular culture also because of the breadth of topics and ideas explored. For example, SF works may deal with: hypothetical utopian or dystopian scenarios (G. Orwell's *1984*, P.K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle*), artificial intelligence and the interaction between humans and machines (I. Asimov's *I, Robot*, A. Garland's *Ex Machina*), personal identity and memory alterations (G. Egan's story 'Learning to be me', R. Scott's *Blade Runner*), time and time-travel (K. Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*), interaction with alien races (Liu Cixin's *The Three-Body Problem*, T. Chiang's *Story of Your Life*), space exploration (S. Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, S. Lem's *Solaris*), and many others. The course will provide the students with a selection of starting points in this vast genre and the intellectual resources required to understand and appreciate these works. Particular emphasis will be put on the philosophical problems and dilemmas explored in the selected texts, movies, or TV series episodes.

**CLB9030 Vampires, Monsters, and the Gothic in Literature and Culture
(3 credits) (from 2020-21)**

This course introduces students to the concept and representations of the Gothic in early history, art, architecture, poetry, fiction, and film. As the longest surviving cultural tradition in the West, the Gothic has never lost its fascination. This is seen in the

proliferation of vampire films, Gothic courses, Gothic sub-cultures, and the International Gothic in art. Via a variety of readings, discussions, classroom activities, media clips, film, written assignments and creative project presentations, students will study the elements of the gothic related to such themes as terror and horror, appearance and reality, setting and confinement, justice and injustice, and the politics of transgression. The focus in this course will be on the Western tradition from the 12th to the 21st centuries, but examples of Gothic youth cultures from Asia will be included as well.

CLB9031 Madness and Literature (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

Madness and theories about madness have nourished literature and art from antiquity, and it has been looked upon as divine, inspired, and insightful, but also as aberrant, inhuman and irrational. In this course, students will study central texts of several traditions that reflect various representations of madness and mental illness. Texts include pre-modern literature, modern and contemporary literature, fiction, drama and poetry, as well as some seminal texts of the psychoanalytical tradition. Materials are drawn from Western and non-Western, as well as Chinese writings.

CLB9032 Understanding Morality (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and CCC8003 Understanding Morality; and take both this course and PHI1003 Ethics: East and West)

This course invites the students to reflect on some of the most central questions in ethics: What is morally right and wrong? What is the morally good life? Is there a single moral theory or are morals specific to particular cultures, epochs or even individuals? Is the rightness or wrongness of an action determined exclusively by the foreseeable consequences that it has? Is pleasure the only moral good or does the notion of virtue have a role in determining morality? What is the role of emotions in the process of making a moral choice? The course discusses some of the answers to the previous questions that the contemporary major ethical theories offer.

Much attention will be paid to constructing a critical and rational approach to a wider understanding of human values. This will mean seeking both to understand other viewpoints sympathetically, but also subjecting them, and one's own, to critical appraisal. As such, this course also tackles a range of specific moral problems including questions of cultural relativism, animal rights, euthanasia, and global poverty. The course will avoid technical terminology to the degree that avoiding it will not constitute a significant decrease in depth and understanding.

CLB9099 Special Topics in CLB Cluster (3 credits)

The subject matter of this course varies according to the expertise of the subject teachers or visiting scholars available. Special topics will mostly complement regular courses offered in the CLB cluster, to provide a broad range of general knowledge and wide perspectives for students to investigate, analyse and reflect on issues and topics related to Humanities and the Arts.

CLB9099a Hong Lou Meng and Chinese People's World Vision and Humanistic Life (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

Hong Lou Meng, as the pinnacle of Chinese classical novels, is known as "the encyclopedia of Chinese feudal society", this course aims to study the food, tea ceremony, poetry, calligraphy, painting, marriage and other substances in Hong Lou Meng, as well as its translation and overseas communication. After studying, students not only have a deeper understanding of the novel's layout, structure, character description and other skills, but also have a deeper understanding of the social, historical, cultural and humanistic spirit contained in it. Furthermore, through study and discussion, students can develop their ability to think independently, and draw inspiration to their creations of contemporary fiction and art.