

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介**

### **COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES**

#### **CCC8001 Logic and Critical Thinking (3 credits)**

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take more than one of the following courses: PHI1101 Critical Thinking, CCC8001 Logic and Critical Thinking, PHI1105 Introduction to Logic, and PHI1111 Logic.)

The primary aim of this course is to teach first-year students the basic but essential skills of analyzing, evaluating, and constructing arguments, and to hone their ability to execute these skills in thinking and writing. This ability is not only necessary for their future coursework, but also crucial to rational deliberation and action in everyday life. Compared to other courses that claim to improve students' critical thinking abilities, this course is distinguished by its effort to make explicit the basic methods of critical thinking and to link these methods to various issues and situations in life.

In order to fulfill its primary aim, the course will discuss common fallacies in reasoning, some of the most useful notions and methods of deductive logic, basic elements of probability and statistics, causal reasoning, and theories of decision-making. Every care will be taken to make the course material accessible and interesting to first year students. The relevance of the course material to real life will be highlighted and demonstrated through a variety of examples.

#### **CCC8002 The Making of Hong Kong (3 credits) (recoded to CCC8012 from 2017-18)**

This inter-disciplinary course introduces students to essential facts and knowledge on the nature of society, politics, economy and business in contemporary Hong Kong. Through historical and comparative perspectives, students will be able to develop local as well as global perspectives on Hong Kong society, and will consider implications for future policy and practice.

#### **CCC8003 Understanding Morality (3 credits)**

Ethics is a field of study that concerns the question of how one should act in a given situation: what is right and wrong, what is morally good or evil? In a wider sense, ethics seeks to answer the question first posed by Socrates, how may we live the good life? This first-year introductory level course will provide a comprehensive and balanced introduction to the field of normative ethics. In this course, students are called upon to examine and reflect upon some of the most central questions in moral philosophy, such as the following: What are the major ethical theories, and how can they relate to the varied kinds of moral problems that confront us all? What does it mean to live a moral life? Is there one universal moral theory or are morals specific to particular groups, historical periods, or individuals? What makes an action right or wrong? Is that question answered in terms of pleasure or some other consequences actions have? In this course, much attention will be paid to finding a critical and rational approach to a wider understanding of human values, as well as a tolerance for different viewpoints. As such this course also tackles a range of specific moral problems, for example, questions of political equality, biomedical controversies, war, environmental concerns, sexual morality and a range of topics relating to business ethics.

#### **CCC8004 World History and Civilisations (3 credits)**

This course will provide an overview of world history since the thirteenth century. It will focus primarily on ways in which different civilisations or cultures have interacted with each other. Such interactions include borrowings of ideas, cultural practices and political

institutions; immigration, exploration and trade; the movements of disease; and empire-building. In addition, this course will highlight the ways in which societies have adapted to—and shaped—technological change.

**CCC8011 Critical Thinking: Analysis and Argumentation (3 credits)** (from 2018-19)

The primary aim of this course is to teach first year students the basic but crucial skills of analysing problems, evaluating inferences, and presenting arguments for or against claims or decisions. Students will acquire these skills by learning about the basic concepts and methods of critical thinking, and by working through problem solving exercises requiring them to employ these concepts and methods. Students will further develop these skills by producing extended arguments defending what they take to be the correct responses to accessible but challenging real issues and problems. The course also aspires to instill in students an open and inquiring attitude, so that students are more willing to look for reasons for and against their views, and more willing to change their views in the face of evidence. Hence, it is hoped that students will develop a habit of reasoning carefully upon completion of this course.

**CCC8012 The Making of Hong Kong (3 credits)** (revised and recoded from CCC8002 from 2017-18)

This inter-disciplinary course introduces students to essential facts and knowledge on the nature of society, politics and economy in contemporary Hong Kong. Students will be able to develop local as well as global perspectives on Hong Kong society, and will consider implications for future policy and practice from multiple perspectives.

**CCC8013 The Process of Science (3 credits)** (from 2019-20)

This course will introduce students to the process of science and the role that science plays in today's world. Students will meet twice per week in two 1.5 hour blocks, that will take two thrusts—lecture and tutorial/lab. The lecture portion will develop the students' understanding of how science works, the role of science in the world, and introduce some of the great challenges in science and technology facing the human population today. Instructional methods will include lectures, short videos, small group class activities, and individual reflection and writing. The lab portion will introduce students to the process of science and allow them to conduct their own independent research project. Where appropriate, this course will use technology to allow “flipped classrooms”.

**CCC8014 China in World History (3 credits)** (from 2019-20)

This course provides students a variety of historical frameworks to analyse the development of China's global role and relationships. The course will follow a basic chronological framework from antiquity to the present day, divided into three distinct units. In the first unit, we will study the development from the first humans to the emergence of the East Asian world order at the end of the first millennium BCE. In the second unit, we will examine the emergence of the global order from the Mongolian empire to the re-centering of the world's economy from Asia to the Atlantic world. In the third unit, we will look at China's changing role on the international stage in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. In each unit, the instruction will emphasise particular patterns of interaction between China and the other countries and peoples. Over the whole course, we will study how those patterns evolved, and the changing, different roles that China has played on the world's stage.