

Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree

in

Humanities

Student Handbook

2019 - 2020

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing
Hong Kong Baptist University

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Rationale of the Humanities Programme

The Humanities Programme of the Hong Kong Baptist University is committed to a distinctive mission of higher education that incorporates teaching, research and service, providing an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural programme that develops and sustains the whole-person education mission of the University. The Programme seeks to pursue excellence in bilingual teaching and research from a cross-cultural perspective. Students are prepared to meet the changing needs of Hong Kong in the 21st Century.

Humanities, originally an academic field in the early days of European universities, is the study of human nature and the cultivation of the human mind. The scope of Humanities has later expanded into the study of language, history, literature, fine arts and philosophy. The Humanities Programme identifies with the Humanities goals concerning interdisciplinary and integrative study on one hand, and foregrounds its own characteristics in the light of the Hong Kong context on the other.

In considering the Humanities in the contemporary Hong Kong context, the Humanities Programme at Hong Kong Baptist University adds two distinct features to the traditional disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. First, the Programme is bilingual. Students will study texts, read, write, and speak in Chinese as well as English, developing their skills in both languages. By doing so, students will be able to respond to Hong Kong's specific linguistic environment. Their mind will also be developed as their access to knowledge and wisdom is broadened through the mastery of two languages. Second, the Programme is cross-cultural. The Programme's current course offerings allow us to accommodate a wide range of student interests. Most of the Humanities core classes emphasize an understanding of multiple cultures and students are encouraged to reflect on academic issues from a cross-cultural perspective. The Humanities Programme also designs a series of cultural activities each year in order to provide students with cultural literacy that extends beyond the mere acquisition of knowledge. We are confident that Humanities students will acquire independent critical thinking and a sharp sense of cross-cultural issues through coursework and extra-curricular activities specially designed for them.

Distinguishing Characteristics of the Programme

Founded in 1990, the Humanities Programme at HKBU is unique, being the first undergraduate programme in Hong Kong dedicated to providing a broad liberal arts education. Apart from training students to think critically, write logically and speak confidently, the Humanities Programme also nurtures students' ability to solve problems, to sympathize with humanity and to appreciate life, qualities which are indeed essential for a successful career as well as a full meaningful life.

Considering the Hong Kong context in the 21st Century, the Humanities Programme consists of three distinct characteristics:

1. Interdisciplinarity

All the Humanities core courses draw on diverse disciplines. These include art criticism, language, literature, history, philosophy, cultural studies and media studies.

2. Bilingual Teaching and Learning

Students will read, write and speak in Chinese as well as English, developing their skills in both languages. By doing so, students will be able to respond to Hong Kong's specific linguistic environment, as well as engaging in more global context.

3. Cross-culturalism

Our courses examine issues of culture, values, diversity, difference and cosmopolitanism.

Aims of the Programme

In order to realize the goals related to the distinguishing characteristics of the Humanities Programme, we emphasize the following general aims:

1. Providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum that develops students' language proficiency;
2. Equipping students with reasoning and analytical skills;
3. Enhancing students' ability to present lucid arguments and make independent judgments;
4. Encouraging students to reflect on social and cultural issues from an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective;
5. Stimulating students' initiative in independent learning;
6. Producing graduates of distinction committed to lifelong learning;
7. Creating an open environment which facilitates and encourages vigorous academic discussion between teachers and students.

Objectives of the Programme

The following objectives are what the Humanities Programme hopes to accomplish:

1. The students would have a knowledge of interdisciplinary Humanities courses in both Chinese and English languages;

2. The students would be familiar with the traditional and contemporary cultures of China and the world through the study of selected Humanities texts;
3. The students would be prepared for careers that require proficiency of both Chinese and English;
4. The students would be prepared for careers that require communication, reasoning and analytical skills, independent critical thinking, cultural literacy and a sharp sense of cross-cultural issues;
5. The students would be prepared for graduate studies in Humanities-related programmes;
6. The students would have self-learning skills that will contribute to their lifelong learning.

Ideals of the Programme

The Programme maintains that educating a new generation of citizens is central to the humanist project and is a distinguishing characteristic of the spirit of the Programme.

Therefore, beyond the general Aims and specific Objectives of the Programme, we also posit certain humane attributes, the full embodiment of which would, in our view, produce a broad-minded, competent, involved, and humane citizen. These ideal attributes include:

1. empathy for human beings and their struggles;
2. a willingness to collaborate with others;
3. adaptability so that one can change with a changing world;
4. an ability to integrate diverse thoughts and points of view;
5. commitment to one's values;
6. creative thinking and an independent mind.

Graduate Attributes

An education at HKBU aims at developing all aspects of the whole person. In particular, it aims to foster the following attributes among its undergraduate graduates, who should:

1. Be responsible citizens with an international outlook and a sense of ethics and civility (Citizenship);
2. Have up-to-date, in-depth knowledge of an academic specialty, as well as a broad range of cultural and general knowledge (Knowledge);
3. Be independent, lifelong learners with an open mind and an inquiring spirit (Learning);
4. Have the necessary information literacy and IT skills, as well as numerical and problem-solving skills, to function effectively in work and everyday life (Skills);
5. Be able to think critically and creatively (Creativity);
6. Have trilingual and biliterate competence in English and Chinese, and the ability to articulate ideas clearly and coherently (Communication); and
7. Be ready to serve, lead and work in a team, and to pursue a healthy lifestyle (Teamwork).

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)

The Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) are to support the University's aspiration to help students develop the HKBU Graduate Attributes. Upon completion of the Humanities Programme, the graduates will:

PILO a: have up-to-date, in-depth cultural literacies through the study of selected classic and contemporary Humanities text

PILO b: be able to analyze and form critical views in everyday cultural and social issues from a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspective

PILO c: be able to evaluate diverse thoughts and points of view

PILO d: be able to present substantiated arguments in both English and Chinese

PILO e: have acquired self-reflexive and creative thinking

Alignment of PILOs to Graduate Attributes

PILOs	HKBU Graduate Attributes (GAs)							
	Knowledge	Creativity	Learning	Communication	Skills	Citizenship	Teamwork	No. of GAs addresses by this PILO
PILO a	✓	✓	✓			✓		4
PILO b	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		5
PILO c	✓	✓	✓			✓		4
PILO d				✓	✓		✓	3
PILO e	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6
No. of PILOs addressing this GA	4	4	4	2	3	3	2	

Alignment of courses to PILOs

Major Required Core Courses	PILO a	PILO b	PILO c	PILO d	PILO e
HUMN 1006 Introduction to the Humanities	✓	✓			
HUMN 2006 Human Self-discovery	✓	✓		✓	✓
HUMN 2007 Chinese and Western Modes of Thought	✓	✓	✓		
HUMN 3005 Artistic Creativity & Aesthetics Awareness	✓	✓			✓
HUMN 3006 Great Works in the Humanities	✓			✓	✓
HUMN 3007 Language and the Humanities		✓	✓	✓	✓
HUMN 3015 The Making of the Contemporary World	✓	✓	✓		✓
HUMN 3065 Research Methods in the Humanities		✓	✓	✓	
HUMN 4005 Asia Discourses	✓	✓	✓		
HUMN 4025 Cultural Studies	✓	✓			✓
HUMN4898 & HUMN 4899 Honours Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Major Elective Courses	PILO a	PILO b	PILO c	PILO d	PILO e
<i>Group A: Theory and Culture</i>					
HUMN 1005 The Study of Culture	✓	✓	✓	✓	
HUMN 2025 Gender: Theory and Culture	✓	✓	✓		
HUMN 2026 Globalization and Culture		✓	✓	✓	✓
HUMN 2035 Introduction to Western Classical Culture	✓		✓		✓
HUMN 3027 Death and Culture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HUMN 3035 The Devil and Culture	✓	✓		✓	✓
HUMN 3036 Human Beings & Their Imaginary Monsters		✓	✓		
HUMN 3057 Politics of the Ordinary		✓	✓		
HUMN 3066 Critical Theories I: From Marx to Adorno	✓	✓			
HUMN 4006 Humanism and the Individual		✓	✓		
HUMN 4015 Histories and Narratives	✓	✓	✓		
HUMN 4016 Major Thinkers in Humanities		✓	✓	✓	
HUMN 4035 Special Topic in Theory and Culture		✓	✓		✓
HUMN 4047 Critical Theories II: From Marcuse to Post-Marxism	✓	✓			

Major Elective Courses	PILO a	PILO b	PILO c	PILO d	PILO e
<i>Group B: Media Studies</i>					
HUMN 2017 A Lifelong Romance with Films			✓	✓	✓
HUMN 2027 Introduction to the Art of Theatre	✓	✓			✓
HUMN 2036 Media and Communication: Issues, Concepts and Theories	✓	✓	✓		✓
HUMN 3026 Creative Industries: Theories and Practices	✓	✓	✓	✓	
HUMN 3037 New Media Cultures	✓	✓			✓
HUMN 3045 Popular Music Studies		✓			✓
HUMN 3046 Science Fiction, Film and Culture	✓	✓			✓
HUMN 3055 Popular Media and Public Culture in Hong Kong		✓	✓		✓
HUMN 3056 Hong Kong Film & Society		✓	✓		✓
HUMN 3075 East Asia Media Cultures in the Global Age		✓	✓		
HUMN 3076 Digital Humanities		✓	✓		✓
HUMN 4007 Body Cultures	✓	✓	✓		
HUMN 4017 Media Representations of Ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HUMN 4036 Special Topic in Media and Cultural Studies		✓	✓		✓

Major Elective Courses	PILO a	PILO b	PILO c	PILO d	PILO e
<i>Group C: Creative Arts</i>					
HUMN 2015 Writing Seminar: Workshop in Creative Writing		✓	✓	✓	✓
HUMN 2016 Performing as Human Experience	✓	✓	✓		✓
HUMN 2045 The Art of Speech: Appreciation & Practice		✓	✓	✓	✓
HUMN 2047 City, Space and Creativity		✓	✓		✓
HUMN 3016 Professional Writing Practicum: Essentials of the Craft Writing	✓		✓	✓	✓
HUMN 3025 Chinese Song Lyric Writing		✓			✓
HUMN 3047 The Present State of the Arts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HUMN 4026 The Art of Creating Stories: Writing and Appreciation	✓	✓	✓		✓
HUMN 4027 The Double Face of Creativity: Fact and Fiction		✓	✓	✓	
HUMN 4037 Special Topic in Creative Arts		✓	✓		

General Education Courses	PILO a	PILO b	PILO c	PILO d	PILO e
GDAR 1026 Food, Culture and Society		✓	✓		✓
GDAR 1027 Gender and Culture	✓	✓	✓		
GDAR1035 Love and Culture		✓	✓		✓
GDAR/GDVC 1905 Multiculturalism and society		✓	✓		✓

Programme Structure

<u>Major</u>	<u>Units</u>
Major Required courses	36
Major Elective courses	<u>24</u>
	60
<u>General Education & University Core courses</u>	
University English I & II	6
University Chinese	3
The Art of Persuasion	2
Healthy Lifestyle	2
Quantitative Reasoning	3
History & Civilization	3
Values & the Meaning of Life	3
Interdisciplinary Thematic Courses	6
GE Capstone	<u>3</u>
	31
Free Electives	<u>37</u>
Total Units:	128

Group A: Theory and Culture

Description:

This concentration aims at developing students' understanding of some basic theories in the study of humanities and endowing them with solid cultural knowledge and literacy. It covers the studies of culture from the classical, contemporary and comparative perspectives, emphasizing reflective understanding of different cultural traditions like western and Chinese cultures. Graduates will be able to apply knowledge, theories and skills to engage with critical analysis and reflection concerning cultural issues.

1. HUMN1005 The Study of Culture
2. HUMN 2025 Gender: Theory and Culture
3. HUMN 2026 Globalization and Culture
4. HUMN 2035 Introduction to Western Classical Culture
5. HUMN 2036 Media and Communication: Issues, Concepts and Theories
6. HUMN 3026 Creative Industries: Theories and Practices

7. HUMN 3027 Death and Culture
8. HUMN 3035 Devil and Culture
9. HUMN 3036 Human Beings and Their Imaginary Monsters
10. HUMN 3066 Critical Theories I: From Marx to Adorno
11. HUMN 4006 Humanism and the Individual
12. HUMN 4015 History and Narratives
13. HUMN 4016 Major Thinkers in Humanities
14. HUMN 4035 Special Topic in Theory and Culture
15. HUMN 4047 Critical Theories II: From Marcuse to Post-Marxism
16. HUMN 3057 Politics of the Ordinary
17. HUMN 3026 Creative Industries: Theories and Practices
18. HUMN 4007 Body Cultures

Group B: Media Studies

Description:

This concentration aims at developing students' critical understanding of various forms of media cultures. It covers studies of different genres of practices: from traditional arts to contemporary and digital forms of media in local and global contexts. Graduates will possess the skills to reflect, analyse and assess the role and impact of media in contemporary society.

1. HUMN 2017 A Lifelong Romance with Films
2. HUMN 2025 Gender: Theory and Culture
3. HUMN 2027 Introduction to the Art of Theatre
4. HUMN 2036 Media and Communication: Issues, Concepts and Theories
5. HUMN 3026 Creative Industries: Theories and Practices
6. HUMN 3036 Human Beings and Their Imaginary Monsters
7. HUMN 3037 New Media Cultures
8. HUMN 3045 Popular Music Studies
9. HUMN 3046 Science Fiction, Film and Culture
10. HUMN 3055 Popular Media and Public Culture in Hong Kong
11. HUMN 3056 Hong Kong Films and Society
12. HUMN 3075 East Asia Media Culture in the Global Age
14. HUMN 3076 Digital Humanities
13. HUMN 4007 Body Cultures
14. HUMN 4017 Media Representations of Ethnicity
15. HUMN 4036 Special Topic in Media and Cultural Studies

Group C: Arts and Creativity

Description:

This concentration aims at developing students' knowledge and understanding of arts and creativity both theoretically and practically. It covers studies in different forms of arts in classical as well as contemporary perspectives. Graduates will possess a solid foundation to engage with artistic processes and works critically and creatively

1. HUMN 2015 Writing Seminar: Workshop in Creative Writing
2. HUMN 2016 Performing as Human Experience
3. HUMN 2027 Introduction to the Art of Theatre
4. HUMN 2045 The Art of Speech: Appreciation & Practice
5. HUMN 2047 City, Space and Creativity
6. HUMN 3016 Professional Writing Practicum: Essentials of the Craft Writing
7. HUMN 3025 Chinese Song Lyric Writing
8. HUMN 3026 Creative Industries: Theories and Practices
9. HUMN 3045 Popular Music Studies
10. HUMN 3047 The Present State of the Arts
11. HUMN 4026 The Art of Creating Stories: Writing and Appreciation
12. HUMN 4027 The Double Face of Creativity: Fact and Fiction
13. HUMN 4037 Special Topic in Arts and Creativity

Remarks:

HUM students who want to have a Concentration should select 21 units from ONE of the above groups. They can utilize 3 units of their free elective units + 18 units of their major electives to meet up the 21 units Concentration requirement set by the university. The balance of the 6 units (24 units - 18 units) of their major electives should go to one course in each of the other two groups for the purpose of broadening their study horizons.

Students who do not opt for a Concentration will choose at least two courses in the three groups and come up with 24 units as their major electives.

Course Description

HUMN 1005 The Study of Culture

The study of culture will be conducted to encourage cross-cultural and interdisciplinary thinking. Contemporary cultural issues will be discussed as they relate to key theories in cultural studies. To enhance the interdisciplinary approach to the study of culture, the instructor will address different disciplines and cultural theories, e.g. philosophy, anthropology, sociology, critical theories, literary theories, postmodern and postcolonial discourses.

HUMN 1006 Introduction to the Humanities

This course is a general introduction to the Humanities by providing students with a basic understanding of the Humanities as an area of study. This course delivers an interdisciplinary and multi-perspective overview of cultural, political, philosophical, and aesthetic factors critical to the formulation of human values and the historical development of the individual and of society. Providing discussion of different themes and disciplines in the Humanities such as literature, the arts, philosophy and cultural studies, this course also introduces the relationship between the Humanities and the university as an idea and an institution.

HUMN 2006 Human Self-Discovery

To introduce various theories of human nature to students as an intellectual foundation for reflection on what it is to be human. To help students to learn how to analyze claims about humanness and to practice their arguments for or against these claims on the basis of comparisons with others' claims. To explore with students together on particular aspects and problems associated with classical, modern and contemporary theories about humans and human nature in the light of its developments in the history of thoughts gleaned from traditional Chinese and Western philosophies.

HUMN 2007 Chinese and Western Modes of Thought

This course aims to provide students a clear understanding of the basic differences and similarities between traditional Chinese and Western cultures through comparative study of selected themes in philosophical, religious, moral, and scientific thinking. This course will also analyze issues pertaining to cultural encounters, accommodations, and confrontations in modern and contemporary Chinese history with some emphasis on Hong Kong. This study of cultural interaction will help students acquire a vision of the changing world and develop their ability to adapt to those changes

HUMN 2015 Writing Seminar: Workshop in Creative Writing

This course aims to enable students to understand and examine the major creative writing genres through practices and critical analysis, explore the rich diversity of modern literary writings, and read representative works in English and Chinese that will parallel the writing exercises in both languages.

HUMN 2016 Performing as Human Experience

This course aims to (1) boost students' power of reflection on their daily life experience and values through dramatic re-enactment of situations; (2) enhance students' multiple intelligences including spatial, intra-personal and inter-personal, etc.; and (3) improve students' expressive capacity through better use of their bodies and speech.

HUMN 2017 A Lifelong Romance with Films

This course aims to provide students a humanistic learning experience through examining selected films which discuss fundamental issues of life and living. Films chosen for the course will be narratives about different life stages – childhood, teenage years, adulthood, old age – and will present students opportunities for discussion of meanings and significance of experiences at these life stages. In the course of examining these films and discussing the various questions related to life and living, students will also be learning about the film medium, such as the different genres and their conventions, how stories are told, and different strategies of representation. Through interactive and experiential learning, the course aims to enhance students' skills of discussion, creative expression, critical thinking, and cultural literacy. It is also hoped that students will form the habit of active participation and become responsible learners.

HUMN 2025 Gender: Theory and Culture

This course will introduce students to trends of thought and the basic theories in gender studies. This interdisciplinary introduction will define and explore how gender is constructed socially, culturally, and historically, using examples from various cultures.

HUMN 2026 Globalization and Culture

This course is designed to equip students with the ability to understand culture in the age of globalization from an interdisciplinary perspective. It will study the changing conceptions of culture and the major trends of thought in the discourse of globalization, trying to unravel the complex relationship between globalization and culture.

HUMN 2027 Introduction to the Art of Theatre

This course aims to introduce the histories and aesthetic principles of the major forms of theatre from the West to the East. It discusses the relation between different forms of theatre and their relations to reality, historical and social background. It helps students to analyse and appreciate different styles and genres of theatre, their aesthetic principle, and their relation with their time and culture. It will also show examples theatre forms with the help of original texts, videos or live performances.

HUMN 2035 Introduction to Western Classical Culture

This course aims to introduce the foundations of Western culture, i.e. the ancient Greek and Roman culture through understanding and appreciation of selected literary texts. By reading of representative works in epic, drama, poetry, rhetoric, history and philosophy, it helps students comprehend and appreciate the various aspects of classical culture and their significance for the modern Western world. It thus serves as an essential part of the western tradition of humanistic education. Relevant dramas and films about ancient Greece and Rome will also be shown in class to consolidate the understanding of these cultures.

HUMN 2036 Media and Communication: Issues, Concepts and Theories

This course aims to introduce the complex issues, theories, and methods involved in understanding contemporary mediascape. Through reading classic and contemporary texts on the media, students will learn various theories of the media, the issues raised by these theories, the strengths and weaknesses of these theories, and the diverse methods of studying the media.

HUMN 2045 The Art of Speech: Appreciation and Practice

This course aims to (1) foster appreciation of the role of rhetoric in Western and Chinese culture, and critical awareness of the power and limitations of the spoken art of persuasion; (2) help students acquire knowledge and understanding of the history and theory of rhetoric the basic philosophical issues about rhetoric and the methods of speech analysis; and (3) provide students with practice and training in the skills of speech composition and delivery.

HUMN 2047 City, Space and Creativity

This course introduces reflections of how city, space and creativity are inter-related. Through the study of concrete examples drawn from the local, regional and global context, this course investigates the social and cultural construction of various creative spaces in cities such as museum, gallery, studio, community art space, street and other **public sphere**; examines how spaces and places are shaped and how they in turn influence human subjectivities, behaviors, imaginations and creativity; and provides discussion of the possibility of understanding and imagining space in cities creatively through different kinds of interpretation, intervention and invention.

HUMN 3005 Artistic Creativity and Aesthetics Awareness

This course aims to (1) introduce artistic creativity as one of the best inventions of the human mind and the sense of beauty as an important dimension of being humane; (2) introduce major principles and theories of art to help students understand various artistic creative processes and their products; (3) enhance students' critical thinking on artistic phenomena and their reflections on the artistic developments in different social and cultural contexts; (4) encourage students to develop their own artistic abilities, and prepares them to create, appreciate, understand and review works of art critically; and (5) enhance students' knowledge and understanding of Chinese and Western aesthetics, and the classical and modern masterpieces produced from these aesthetic theories.

HUMN 3006 Great Works in the Humanities

This course presents an array of primary texts, in English and Chinese, that have shaped the study of the Humanities and have been acknowledged as formative masterpieces in the study of the Humanities. It will demonstrate, through the particular address of primary texts, the humanistic tradition of intertextual study involving literary, philosophical, historical and other forms of writing. The course will encourage students to confront the contemporary controversy surrounding canonical literature, and it will encourage students to exercise independently their critical, analytical, and creative judgments in assessing the value of such canonical works in the modern world.

HUMN 3007 Language and the Humanities

The goal of this interdisciplinary course is to explore the role of language in defining our fundamental human nature as symbol-constructing, symbol-using beings. Furthermore, the course examines how fundamental issues within the Humanities intersect with the nature of language as both a system and an activity to produce the complex human world we experience as simply "the way things are."

HUMN 3015 The Making of the Contemporary World

This course aims to introduce students to the diverse ways of defining modernity from a humanistic perspective and help them develop a critical awareness of our present human condition through a comprehensive view of the formation and the nature of the contemporary world. Emphasis will be placed on the various intellectual, social, philosophical, political, and cultural and technological developments that have transformed the modern world into the contemporary world. The course will integrate notions of modernity from science, politics, religion, philosophy and the arts.

HUMN 3016 Professional Writing Practicum: Essentials of the Craft of Writing

This course aims to (1) enable students to cope with the writing tasks in the commercial and public fields of employment in Hong Kong; (2) help student grasp and understand the functional forms of writing in both English and Chinese; and (3) teach students the intellectual and practical skills necessary for effective communication in the commercial field.

HUMN 3025 Chinese Song Lyric Writing

This course aims to enable students to understand and examine Chinese song lyrics by exploring

the crafts and creativity, the practices and possibilities of this particular literary genre. Student's ability to write Chinese song lyrics will be enhanced through appreciation and practice. Students will also be familiarized with the functions of song lyrics in contemporary cultural contexts.

HUMN 3026 Creative Industries: Theories and Practices

This course is designed to enhance students' understanding of creative industries in general and its development in Hong Kong in particular. It explores popular cultures and its possible relationship with the development of creative industries in a cross-disciplinary approach.

HUMN 3027 Death and Culture

This course aims at introducing the examining the problem of death from different perspectives like religion, philosophy, art and literature. It examines the religious representation of life after death, philosophical reflections of death and its meanings, and the representations of death in different art forms like literature, drama, visual art and film. Examples from Western, Chinese and other cultures will be used whenever it is appropriate. It helps students to understand and engage in critical discussion about the meanings of death from cultural, religious and philosophical perspectives.

HUMN 3035 Devil and Culture

The aim of this course is to introduce and examine cultural issues related to the idea of devil and its representations in the Western cultural tradition. It will discuss the idea of evil and the devil from the religious-historical and philosophical perspectives, and then look at examples of the representations of devil from literature, drama and film. Some examples of the Chinese ideas of evil and devil will also be used for comparison. It will help students to understand, interpret and make sense of the idea of the evil and the devil and its meaning in the modern world.

HUMN 3036 Human Beings and Their Imaginary Monsters

This course aims to study a selection of literary and cinema classics and popular texts which feature monsters created by human beings in modern times. The fascination with the monstrous, as indicated by the variety of monsters created as well as the sustained interest throughout modern times, can be seen as our continuous attempt to discover who we are and how we are related to the world. The studying of these monsters students have created reveals the fears, anxieties and uncertainties human experience in their struggle to self-understanding.

HUMN 3037 New Media Cultures

This course examines from a cultural studies approach how new media shape and change representation, ideology and power relations in contemporary culture. It is an investigation of the struggle over meaning, knowledge and power produced by newer forms of media (web sites, virtual worlds, multimedia, computer games, digital video, special effects in cinema and net films, interactive computer installations etc). Analysing whether the newness of new media is really new or just a reformation of what already exists, this course explores what kind of challenge new media have brought to our everyday life and studies if the new forms produce distinctively different contents and audiences. We also look at how new media accentuate the productive dimension of the consumption process and identify the moments of transformation in cultural consumption.

HUMN 3045 Popular Music Studies

This course aims to widen and deepen the students' basic knowledge of popular music as a pervasive cultural form in contemporary society. It will also enhance their critical understanding of popular music as an academic study through an inter-disciplinary approach.

HUMN 3046 Science Fiction, Film and Culture

This course aims to examine science fiction through some of its most influential works in the novel, short story, and film. Science fiction and film are the cultural forms that reflect how we understand our world. The possible worlds that science fiction writers and filmmakers predicted do not only offer to conceive some alternate systems but also represent contemplations on radical difference and otherness as well as the ideological nature of our social totality. This course examines how the imaginations of science fiction and film are connected to the historical and collective fantasy of our social world. The culture of science fiction and film, seemingly distanced from its social context, precisely serves as a critique of the latter, by ruminating on the ideological mechanism of virtual reality, human-machine, future institutions, alien races, and the nature of humanity. This course will not only assess the development of science fiction as a popular genre from the early decades of the twentieth century to the explosion of science fiction from the 1950s to the present, but it also traces back to the "proto-science fiction writers" of the renaissance and eighteenth century through the evolution of science fiction in the nineteenth century with Shelley, Poe, Verne, and others. In addition, the course will explore why the science fiction genre is missing in Chinese culture.

HUMN 3047 The Present State of the Arts

This course aims to (1) provide introductory study, appreciation and critical analyse on modern and contemporary art scenes, including the current development of Hong Kong art, the new Chinese art as well as contemporary Asian art; (2) give students key information for better apprehension of our current cultural phenomena; (3) appreciate art through gallery and exhibition visits, dialogues with artists alongside with lectures and tutorial studies; and (4) consolidate the studies and understanding of art through direct experience and exposure to art.

HUMN 3055 Popular Media and Public Culture in Hong Kong

This course aims to develop a theoretical and contextual understanding of how Hong Kong popular media contribute to the formation of local public culture and cultural diversity. The course has two focuses. First, it examines how various forms of local popular media are historically shaped by a wide range of external socio-political factors, government policy, local politics, market dynamics, agencies of cultural workers, and changing cultural tastes. Second, the course investigates how this formation process of popular media facilitates or constrains the development of Hong Kong public culture and cultural diversity. Overall, this course helps students explore the complex relationships between Hong Kong cultural formation and the historical dynamics of various commercial and non-commercial forms of popular media. To these ends, a wide range of local popular media such as commercial television, popular music, cinema, lifestyle magazines, popular news media, and public television will be used for discussion. Different strategies for promoting public culture through reforming Hong Kong popular media will also be discussed.

HUMN 3056 Hong Kong Films and Society

This course aims to enhance students' understanding of how Hong Kong films have been shaping and shaped by the local culture and society and the global context of film-making. To this end, this course will introduce a wide range of approaches to film studies and rethink how to apply these approaches to different periods of Hong Kong film development.

HUMN 3057 Politics of the Ordinary

This course introduces students to key concepts and ideas of ordinary everyday life as a critical area of studies. The course examines the ordinary practices of everyday living as sites where meaning and power, ideology and subjectivity, governance and resistance are played out and offers a critical reading through theories drawn from the Humanities and Cultural Studies.

HUMN 3065 Research Methods in the Humanities

This course introduces some of the key approaches and research methods distinctive of interdisciplinary Humanities study, and offers step-by-step guidance to students when they conduct their own interdisciplinary research project. Significant texts (in English and Chinese) concerning the approach, content areas, and discussions in the Humanities will be studied. Students will also learn how to plan and conduct a research in the area of the Humanities, as well as the practicalities of writing up the research paper.

HUMN 3066 Critical Theories I: From Marx to Adorno

This course aims at introducing the theoretical framework of classical critical theories from Karl Marx to early Frankfurt school. It will provide a sound foundation for the students in understanding basic the concern and arguments of these theories and critically reflecting on their relevance and implications for the contemporary world.

HUMN 3075 East Asia Media Cultures in the Global Age

This course aims to introduce the complex issues and theories in understanding and explaining East Asia media cultures. It combines both historical and theoretical approach to illustrate the rise of East Asia media cultures. Specifically, it analyzes the production of various key media genres in Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, China and other East Asia countries; examines the textual characteristics of these media genres; and interrogates the complicated flows, reception and influences of East Asia media cultures across the world. It explores various enduring issues such as soft power, colonial hybridity, power dynamics of regional flows, cross-cultural reception, co-production of Asianess and Chineseness, and 'Asia as method'. Through the above multi-dimensional and cross-cultural analysis, the course aims to address if and how power struggles within and among various East Asia countries have facilitated more symmetrical transnational cultural-flows and served public interests at local, domestic level.

HUMN 3076 Digital Humanities

This course introduces students to the key concepts, theories and developments in the field of Digital Humanities. It brings the tools and techniques of digital media, and the digitalization of culture, to bear on traditional questions studied in the Humanities and vice versa. The course will be a combination of theoretical inquiry and research into current digital cultural practices.

HUMN 4005 Asia Discourses

This course aims to introduce students to the diverse ways of defining Asia from various perspectives and help them develop a critical awareness to think about “Asia” as a problematic under the global structure of the contemporary world. Though the traditional notion of Asia is a Eurocentric fabrication, Asia is not necessarily grasped as the other in opposition to the West. Emphasis will be placed on how historically Asia is a position without identity, a continent so much de-regionalized, and a place that keeps searching for its definition. Its developments have been intertwined with capitalist globalization, transforming the world as well as being transformed at the same time.

HUMN 4006 Humanism and the Individual

This course aims to (1) introduce the concept of Humanism, and how this concept can be seen as the basic shaping force of the modern individual course; (2) develop critical skills by assessing primary and secondary source readings in history, philosophy, art and literature; and (3) demonstrate to students the intellectual and cultural importance of interdisciplinary approaches to learning.

HUMN 4007 Body Cultures

This course aims to (1) introduce reflections on human bodies in their situated cultures as the existential base of Humanities; (2) introduce the Chinese and various traditional discourses of the body and ends in the examination of the development of these discourses related to contemporary cultural issues; (3) study important and representative body theories and review critically the application and the manifestation of these discourses in their everyday lives; (4) consider body in interdisciplinary and cross-cultural manners; (5) enhance students’ knowledge and understanding of human bodies in relation to their cultural contexts.

HUMN 4015 Histories and Narratives

This course aims to (1) introduces both traditional and contemporary notions of history and the diverse cultural functions history is called upon to perform; (2) consider historical, cross-cultural, religious, artistic, and ideological viewpoints concerning issues of vital importance in the development of Western civilization; and (3) complement earlier courses’ discussion of the human condition, and will introduce the more specialized theoretical study undertaken in the final term of Humanities study.

HUMN 4016 Major Thinkers in Humanities

This course aims to introduce the major thinkers in the West who have significant influence in shaping the Western mind. These thinkers are selected according to their comprehensiveness of their thought about understanding of human nature, culture, art, history and the meaning of human existence and their significance in Western intellectual history. It will introduce to the students the contents of their thought by outlining their major ideas and by reading selected texts. It helps students to understand how these thinkers tackle the big issues concerning humanities, i.e. their views about man, human history, art, culture and the meaning of life, and their relation with the modern world. It aims at introducing the major figures of Western thought as factors which shape the Western intellectual universe, and thus provides a solid basis for humanities and cultural studies.

HUMN 4017 Media Representations of Ethnicity

This course aims to introduce students to the concepts of ethnic identity through different kinds of media representation. It explores the politics and dynamics of ethnic identity formation, drawing on the experiences of various ethnic groups from Hong Kong, China, and other places. We examine representations of ethnicity in the commercial and independent media, investigate what influences these representations, and consider their repercussions. We also analyse how the idea of ethnic hierarchy informs our understanding of power and privilege related to media representation and stereotyping. Although the terms “race” and “ethnicity” are always used interchangeably and together, we will offer analytical distinction between the two terms by focusing on their ideological undertakings and social construction.. Focusing more on the Chinese contexts of ethnic representations, we address if the needs and interests of minority communities are being met by the mainstream media, and whether the minority may reinforce the identification of the ethnic majority in the media depiction. In addition, we ask if change in the diversity of media images is possible and what can be done to promote change for ethnic representation.

HUMN 4025 Cultural Studies

This course provides an overview of the key concepts, theories, and issues in Cultural Studies. It introduces students to the origins and foundational concerns of Cultural Studies as an academic discipline and an intellectual practice; examines selected critical engagements with reference to specific contexts; and considers the work of Cultural Studies in relation to social, historical, and institutional conditions. The course also addresses such issues as the role of theory and analysis, the relevance of Cultural Studies for public cultures, as well as the constraints and possibilities faced by Cultural Studies practitioners today in their divergent attempts to engage in critical projects of our time.

HUMN 4026 The Art of Creating Stories: Writing and Appreciation

The course will explore the art of storytelling by discussing the history and role of storytelling in humanities. Followed by introduction to the fundamental elements, i.e. character, point of view, structure, plot, tension and dialogue with selected examples from different genres and forms, a wide variety of fictions, poems and movies will be introduced in this class. Students will learn to appreciate the art of storytelling, and create their own work. At the end of this course, students will develop a series of creative work that show their unique voice by making use of strategies acquired during the process of learning.

HUMN 4027 The Double Face of Creativity: Fact and Fiction

This course aims to demonstrate the interrelationship between fact and fiction in the writing of creative works through the examination and discussion of the historical fiction. While it is generally believed that fact and fiction are two different and sometimes even opposite writings which happen in different contexts, this course hopes to show that they are two sides of the same coin. Through a study of the historical fiction, students will see the creative aspects of a critical research, and how being critical is an important step towards creativity.

HUMN 4035 Special Topic in Theory and Culture

This course aims to provide an opportunity for senior students to have an in-depth study of a selected topic related to theory and culture. Students will look at cultural issues from an

interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and theoretical perspective. The course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgment.

HUMN 4036 Special Topic in Media and Cultural Studies

This course aims to provide an opportunity for senior students to have an in-depth study of a selected topic related to media and cultural studies. Students will examine the selected media and culture topic from an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and theoretical perspective. The course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgement.

HUMN 4037 Special Topic in Creative Arts

This course aims to provide an opportunity for senior students to have an in-depth study of a selected topic related to arts. Students will look at creative arts from an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and theoretical perspective. The course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own creative work and/or critical judgement.

HUMN 4047 Critical Theories II: From Marcuse to Post-Marxism

This course aims at introducing the theoretical framework the Critical Theories from Marcuse, Walter Benjamin to Habermas. It will provide a sound foundation for the students in understanding basic the concern and arguments of these theories and critically reflecting on their relevance and implications for the contemporary world.

HUMN 4898-4899 Honours Project

Student will have to submit a Honours Project topic in Year II. The Project will run throughout the summer of Year II to Year III, earning 3 units each semester. The completed work will be of approximately 7,000- 10,000 words in English or 10,000-15,000 characters in Chinese. Students will have a Programme's Honours Projects Handbook listing all the rules, requirements and guidelines as well as detailed information on the Project including topic selection, form and style, assessment, and other data. The Projects will take into account the process assessment.

General Education (GE) Programme

University Core

The University Core requirements will consist of University English I and II (6 units), University Chinese (3 units), Healthy Lifestyle (2 units) and The Art of Persuasion (2 units), for a total of 13 units.

The curriculum provides students with the essential and transferable knowledge and skills that help them lead successful lives both living and following their university education.

Learning Outcomes

University English I&II

- Comprehend extended academic spoken discourse by employing cognitive and metacognitive lecture comprehension strategies;
- Analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments from a diverse range of academic texts;
- Employ fundamental research skills and conventions of citations and referencing in academic writing;
- Write extended academic texts including a literature review and argumentative research papers logically and coherently;
- Enhance their oral presentation skills in an academic setting; and
- Reflect on and self-assess their own abilities and performance in order to become more independent and competent lifelong learners.

University Chinese

- Identify and evaluate the main ideas in Chinese texts in a variety of genres;
- Write Chinese essays of an academic, expository or argumentative nature, expounding a theme or topic in a logical and coherent manner, with correct grammar and appropriate choice of vocabulary;
- Speak in public with effective techniques and confidence;
- Clearly describe the cultural content of Chinese language through concrete analyses of Chinese characters and idioms;
- Improve their Chinese proficiency independently using self-access multimedia resources.

Healthy Lifestyle

- Appreciate and value the benefits of healthy lifestyle practices by relating them to a healthy body from multiple perspectives;
- Appreciate the importance of making health-enhancing decisions in daily living by adopting healthy habits such as intake of healthy foods, regular exercise, and managing life's stresses through self-reflection, and mediation;
- Reflect on the responsibilities and commitment associated with developing healthy relationships in social and family settings;
- Recognize the role of art and music in supporting healthy behaviors and lifestyle.

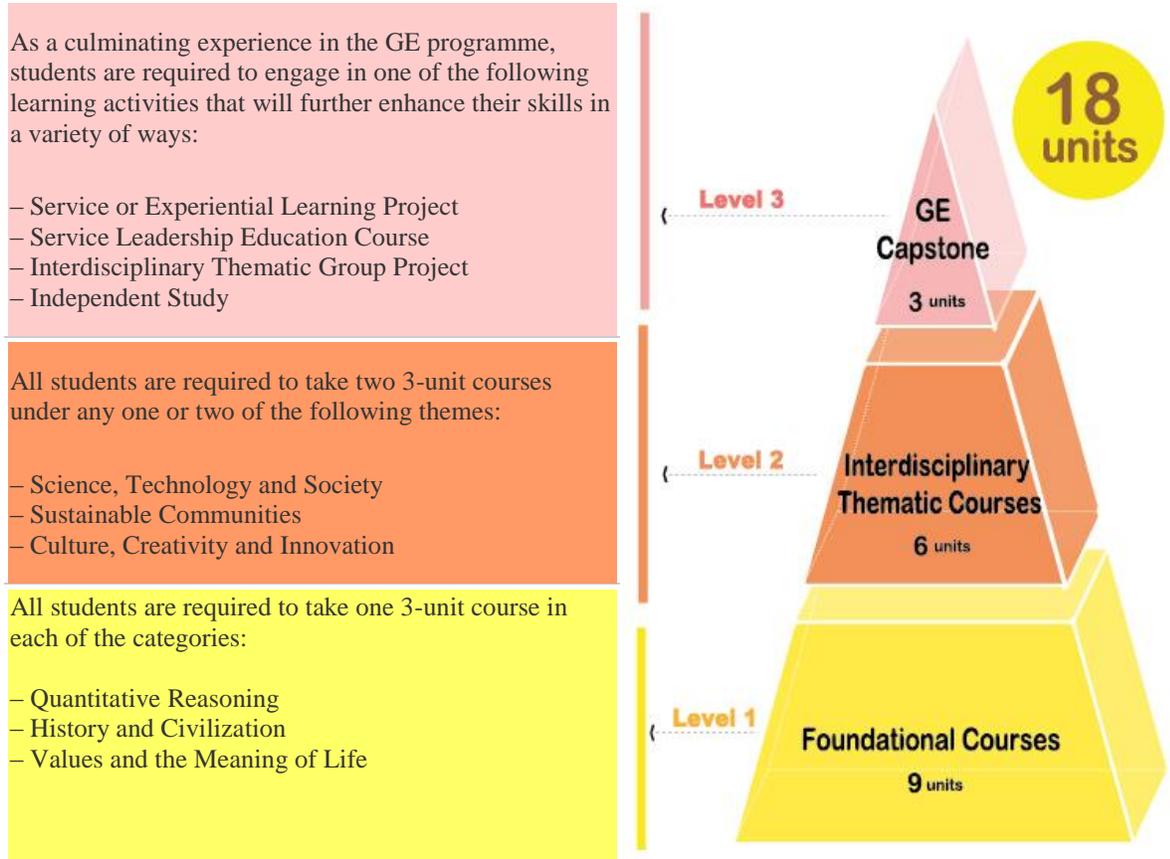
The Art of Persuasion

- Demonstrate a grasp of key concepts, principles, and theories underlying effective communication and persuasion by applying them appropriately in various speaking and presenting engagements;
- Conduct audience analysis to prepare speeches for intended audiences;
- Draw upon a variety of sources to enrich their oral presentations;
- Apply principles of effective communication to the preparation and delivery of presentations;
- Analyze and evaluate persuasive presentations produced by themselves and others.

GE Programme

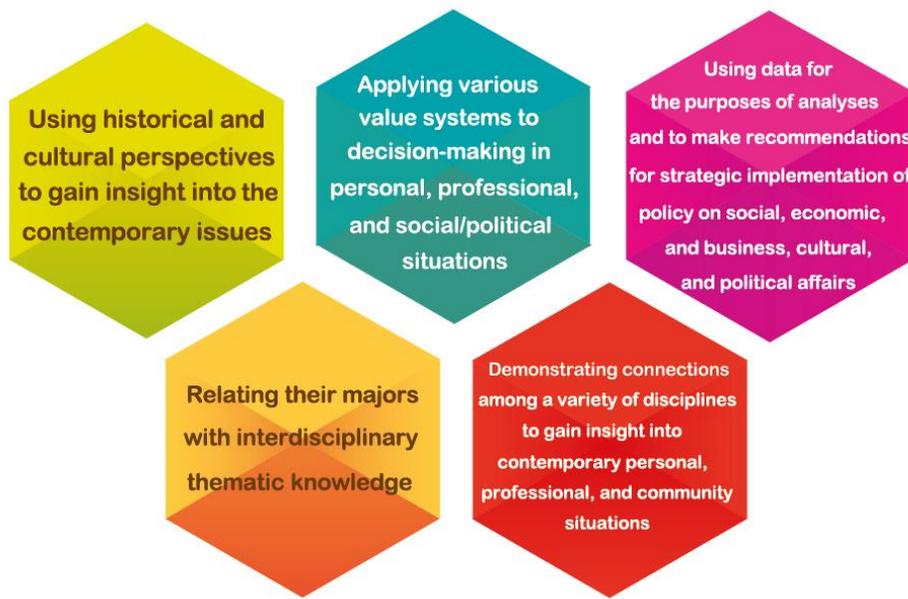
The GE programme will offer three levels of learning from foundational courses to courses in themes, and a culminating experience, for a total of 18 units.

The programme demonstrates the essential elements of liberal arts education, such as multiple perspectives, values, empathy and critical mind. The students will be able to see the connections between different disciplines and their major or minor studies. All Level 1 and Level 2 courses will be interdisciplinary.



Learning Outcomes

After completing the GE Programme, students are expected to achieve a number of programme intended learning outcomes:



General Education Courses offered by the Department

GDAR 1026 Food and Humanities

The course introduces students to central issues of food culture through a range of theoretical approaches drawn from the Humanities and Social Sciences. Through critically evaluating the practices of food production, distribution and consumption, the course aims to engage students in an informed discussion about their relationship to food in local and global contexts.

GDAR 1027 Gender and Culture

The course will take an interdisciplinary and multimedia approach to examine gender constructions socially, culturally and historically in literature, film, internet, visual art, and other popular cultural forms, with concrete analyses of examples from Chinese communities and other parts of the world. Using the perspectives of contemporary gender studies including feminist scholarship, gay-lesbian analytical tools, critical theory and psychoanalysis, this course will focus on the constructed nature of gender roles, the effects of these constructions on the lives of different gender identities, and the possibilities for change and individual empowerment that a critical awareness can create.

GDAR 1035 Love and Culture

The course aims to help student understand and analyze the major factors affecting the cultural construction of love and sex via discussion of exemplary works in both Western and Chinese cultures, and engage them in critical attitudes toward current issues on love and sex arising in the local context of Hong Kong. It will review the ideas and representations of love, sex and eroticism as cultural phenomena in Western and Chinese cultures, bringing in some representing philosophical, social and cultural perspectives of the subject.

GDAR/GDVC 1905 Multiculturalism and society

This course aims to help students develop critical thinking and gain first-hand knowledge in our multicultural and globalized society. Paying equal attention to theory and practice, course time will be allocated to familiarize students with general concepts and categories useful in ethnic and migration studies; to bring in experts from different disciplines and ethnic communities to share their insights with specific reference to Hong Kong; and finally to let students have direct contact with local ethnic minorities and, under the guidance of lecturers and performance artists with relevant experience, conduct a community project.

UCHL 1055 How Are You, My Friend? Understanding and Loving Yourself

The aim of this course is to first of all guide students to observe and reflect on their own lives, identify their own pattern of daily practices, and to acquire a framework to enable change in their behavior to achieve wellness. Secondly approaches and methods of achieving a healthy nutritional, physical and emotional lifestyle will be introduced in the lectures and in-class activities so as to offer a variety of tools for students to help manage different aspects of their lives. Lecture materials include a range of examples from popular media culture, personal narratives from social media, and professional documentations concerning the maintenance of wellness. The teaching and learning approach adapted will be interactive and self-empowering. Besides knowledge transmission, the course contains a component of physical activities including meditation practices (which require warm up exercise), role-play activities, and mindfulness training. It is hoped that the course can cultivate in students an awareness to personal wellness, and an ability to continuously enhance the quality of their lives through the application of skills and methods learnt in the course.

Suggested Study Plan

Year 1

Semester 1	Unit	Semester 2	Unit
University English I	3	University English II	3
University Chinese	3	GE History & Civilization	3
GE Values & the Meaning of Life	3	Free Elective 2	3
HUMN 1006 Introduction to the Humanities	3	Free Elective 3	3
Free Elective 1	3	Free Elective 4	3
U-Life	-	U-Life	-
	15		15

Year 2

Semester 1	Unit	Semester 2	Unit
HUMN 2007 Chinese and Western Modes of Thought	3	HUMN 2006 Human Self-Discovery	3
HUM Major Elective 1	3	HUM Major Elective 2	3
GE Interdisciplinary Thematic Courses 1	3	University Healthy Lifestyle	2
University The Art of Persuasion	2	GE Quantitative Reasoning	3
Free Elective 5	3	Free Elective 7	3
Free Elective 6	3	Free Elective 8	3
	17		17

Year 3

Semester 1	Unit	Semester 2	Unit
HUMN 3005 Artistic Creativity and Aesthetics Awareness	3	HUMN 3006 Great Works in the Humanities	3
HUMN 3065 Research Methods in the Humanities	3	HUMN 3007 Language and the Humanities	3
HUM Major Elective 3	3	HUM Major Elective 5	3
HUM Major Elective 4	3	HUM Major Elective 6	3
GE Interdisciplinary Thematic Courses 2	3	Free Elective 10	3
Free Elective 9	2	Free Elective 11	2
	17		17

Year 4

Semester 1	Unit	Semester 2	Unit
HUMN 4005 Asia Discourses	3	HUMN 3015 The Making of the Contemporary World	3
HUMN 4898 Honours Project	3	HUMN 4899 Honours Project	3
HUM Major Elective 7	3	HUMN 4025 Cultural Studies	3
Free Elective 12	3	HUM Major Elective 8	3
GE Capstone	3	Free Elective 13	3
	15		15

- ❖ Students who would like to take Humanities as major are advised to take the course “HUMN 1006 Introduction to the Humanities” in Year 1. For those who do not take the course in Year 1, they are required to take the course at later stage of their study in order to fulfill the Major requirement.

Concentration

HUM students who want to have a Concentration should select 21 units from ONE of the above groups. They can utilize 3 units of their free elective units + 18 units of their major electives to meet up the 21 units Concentration requirements set by the university. The balance of the 6 units (24 units – 18 units) of their major electives should go to one course in each of the other two groups for the purpose of broadening their study horizons.

Students who do not opt for a Concentration will choose at least two courses in the three groups and come up with 24 units as their major electives.

General Notes to Students

Cultural Affairs

One object of the Humanities Programme is to encourage your participation in the cultural life of our times. Indeed, it would be contradictory if we study our cultural heritage in the curriculum but ignore the cultural offerings in the world around us.

Therefore, several times each year, you will be invited to join your classmates and lecturers to attend performances, visit galleries and explore historical sites. Whenever possible, we will invite guest speakers to introduce programmes.

The Programme will also try to provide you an opportunity to travel and study abroad. The annual Summer Study Tour and Exchange Programme provide you the chances to expand your educational and cultural horizons.

Students' Participation in Programme Management

Students from the Programme will be invited and sit on the Programme Management Committee, a body which exercises overall supervision of the B.A. (Hons) in Humanities. The student members will be elected by their peers.

The Staff and Student Consultation Committee was introduced in 2000-2001. It meets at least once every semester and has been proven to be very effective and useful in collecting opinions concerning teaching and learning. It is also a good channel to learn about students' needs and to review the development of the programme.

Advisers of Studies

You will have an adviser (usually your mentor) who will provide academic counseling, guidance, and assistance throughout your University years. Your adviser will also lend support by referring you to other counselors--the Chaplain, the Head of Student Affairs or the Head of the Counseling Centre. Your adviser can further help you by serving as an intermediary between you and other members of the University community--your teachers, classmates, and non-academic staff.

When you choose a topic for your Year III Honours Project, you will be assigned an Honours Project adviser whose scholarly training and interests are relevant to your topic.

The Humanities Programme encourages a greater degree of independent study in each succeeding year. You will make more and more academic and intellectual choices and judgments on your own as you move through your University career. Therefore, we think it is especially important for you to keep in close touch with your Advisers of Studies.