City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course
offered by Department of School of Creative Media
with effect from Semester B in 2006 / 2007

This form is for completion by the Course Co-ordinator. The information provided on this form will be deemed to be the official record of the details of the course. It has multipurpose use: for the University’s database, and for publishing in various University publications including the Blackboard, and documents for students and others as necessary.

Please refer to the Explanatory Notes attached to this Form on the various items of information required.

Part I

Course Title: Cultures and Identities

Course Code: SM3112

Course Duration: One semester

No. of Credit Units: 3

Level:

Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title) SM3125 Critical theory of society

Precursors: (Course Code and Title)

Equivalent Courses: (Course Code and Title)

Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)

Part II

1. Course Aims:

As an advanced-level follow-up from Critical Theories for Society, this course appeals to a Cultural Studies paradigm that draws from sociology, anthropology, media studies as well as literary theories to examine the question of culture and identity. With the stress on power, the course asks students to do cultural research on how and why the world is experienced so and with what effects. Since this course is about doing cultural studies, it foregrounds research practice and research processes as praxis informed by theory.
At the end of the course, students should:
- Identify a variety of theory-informed approaches to the understanding of culture and the question of identity-negotiations, and how selves and identities are constructed in private and public life;
- Apply ethnographic research methods to do cultural research;
- Develop dialogues between informed theories and everyday practices – reflect on experience through a theoretical lens and letting what is learned in the living test and develop theories.
- have a full grasp of culture as *everyday practices* and the possibilities of *micro-politics*;
- be able to engage in local cultural issues in Hong Kong critically, and be able to produce their own cultural research in written form.

Standing by the belief in full autonomy of creative media professionals, the course seeks to help students engage critically with, and draw inspirations from, the social-cultural realities in which they work.
2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)
(state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
<th>Weighing (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Identify the concept of “culture as ordinary”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Apply research methods in their own cultural research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Relate cultural theories to their research project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Analyze critically the relation of culture, power, state, and global order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Create their own dossier of case studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Write their research paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)
(designed to facilitate students’ achievement of the CILOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ILO No</th>
<th>TLAs</th>
<th>Hours/weeks (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CILO 1-4</td>
<td>Instructor’s overview on international and local cultural research to:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. explain theories in the study of cultural politics:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Williams, De Certeau, Foucault, reception studies,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goffman, Lefebvre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. illustrate methods of doing cultural research:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>interview, fieldwork, coding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 1-4</td>
<td>Small group discussion on assigned readings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 2-4, 6</td>
<td>Individual presentation in small group section or 1 to 1 section on students’ research project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 5</td>
<td>Log-book</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities
(designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ILO No</th>
<th>Type of assessment tasks/activities</th>
<th>Weighting (if applicable)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CILO 1</td>
<td>Response paper to Williams’ “Culture is ordinary”</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 2-4</td>
<td>Oral presentation (2 times)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 2-4</td>
<td>Individual section (3 times)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 5</td>
<td>Log book</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CILO 2-4, 6</td>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading o Courses in the Academic Regulations and to the Explanatory Notes.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:
Production of social/cultural knowledge; cultural differences; resistance; power; subjectivities; identity formation; economic determinism; culture as a total way of life; culture as the imaginary and site of fantasy; cultural capital; culturalist perspectives; agency; hegemony; everyday creativity; presentation of the self in everyday dramaturgy; techniques of self; self technology; discourse analysis; the everyday; micro process of everyday life; everyday ethics; ethical incompleteness and citizenship; daily operations and consumer practices Ethno-methodologies; the life of objects; self narratives; visual ethnography; representing others; interviews; narrativity Henri Lefebvre, Michel de Certeau, Erving Goffman, Michel Foucault; Judith Butler.
Recommended Reading:

Text(s):


Chan, Anita and Wai-ling Wong, (eds.) (2004). Gendering Hong Kong 香港性別論述, Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.


Pun, Ngai and Lai-man Yee (eds.) (2003) Narrating Hong Kong Culture and Identity 《書寫城市》，Hong Kong: the University of Hong Kong Press.

Sinn, E. (ed) (1995), Culture and Society in Hong Kong, Hong Kong: the University of Hong Kong Press.

Online Resources:

http://www.hku.hk/hkcsp/
http://www.isd.gov.hk/chi/tvapi/effort_c.html
http://www.nuxingwang.org.hk/index.adp
http://www.rebuildhk.com/
http://www.ppwk.org/chi/questionnaire.htm
http://www.inmediahk.net/public/index

Returned by:

Name: Kimburley Choi Department: School of Creative Media

Tel: 21942765 Date: 1 April 2006