

# HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## COURSE OUTLINE

### 1. COURSE TITLE

Perspectives on Universal Themes

### 2. COURSE CODE

ENGL4047

### 3. NO. OF UNITS

3 Units

### 4. OFFERING DEPARTMENT

Department of English Language and Literature

### 5. PREREQUISITES

ENGL2005 Introduction to the Study of Language

### 6. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

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### 7. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- 1) To help students relate at a philosophical level the themes in linguistics that cut across disciplines;
- 2) To broaden students' perspectives on the properties of their discipline by placing it in the large context of academic inquiry;
- 3) To cultivate courage in students to approach issues outside their field of training;
- 4) To cultivate rigor in attempting to understand issues that lie beyond their field of training.

### 8. COURSE CONTENT

I. Themes from the Phenomenal World

- a. Rhythm (e.g. prosody, visual arrangement, bio-rhythms, cyclicity, music)
- b. Identity and Metamorphosis (e.g. writing, speech, architecture and renovations, biological transformation, energy)
- c. Morphology (e.g. word, biological, geographical morphology)
- d. Beauty (e.g. art, biological sexuality, nudity, decorations, might, weakness, linguistic expressions from ode to expletive)

- e. Love, Compassion and Attraction (e.g. love in literature, gravitation, sexual selection)
- f. Equality and Equilibrium (e.g. Distribution of wealth, Jekyll & Hyde, moments in physics, ecological stability)
- g. Freedom, Chaos and Order
- h. Hunger, Desire and Needs (e.g., valence, drives, instinct)

II. Themes from Tools for Construction and Understanding of Reality

- a. Analysis and Diagnosis
- b. Truth Myth, Superstition, Faith and Guesses
- c. Evidence and Argumentation
- d. Gedank experiment & creativity

Themes listed above are neither exhaustive nor restrictive, but are rather intended to be exemplary. The choice of themes may differ from semester to semester depending on interest.

**9. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)**

<u>CILO</u>	<u>By the end of the course, students should be able to:</u>
CILO 1	Identify empirical motivations behind themes and concepts deemed to be universal
CILO 2	Explain how a particular understanding of a concept can be founded on arguments internal to a discipline or on interpretations of factual observations
CILO 3	Articulate the insights behind different disciplines and how in their combination humanity is enriched
CILO 4	Explain different perspectives on a given universal theme

**10. TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)**

<u>CILO alignment</u>	<u>Type of TLA</u>
CILO 1	- Explore linguistic phenomena - Develop analytical tools
CILO 2	- Explore linguistic phenomena - Develop analytical tools - Analyze relevant phenomena outside of linguistics - Explore analytical tools in other disciplines
CILO 3	- Relate linguistics to other disciplines - Explore analytical tools in other disciplines
CILO 4	- Analyze relevant phenomena outside of linguistics - Explore analytical tools in other disciplines

**11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

<u>Type of Assessment Methods</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>CILOs to be addressed</u>	<u>Description of Assessment Tasks</u>
Coursework	50 %	1, 2, 3, 4	<p>Coursework may consist of a combination of in-class presentations and debates, exercises, journals, and/or term projects. These are designed to allow students to explore a given theme in-depth across different perspectives.</p> <p>When learning about phonology, off-site group work and self-study/access of the HKBU Phonology Lab will be regular features of the coursework and its assessment.</p>
Examination	50 %	1, 2, 3, 4	The final examination assesses students' abilities to articulate and relate different insights of a given universal theme.

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