

# 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; and
- 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)**

<b>CILO</b>	<b>By the end of the course, students should be able to:</b>
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)**

<b>CILO alignment</b>	<b>Type of TLA</b>
CILO 1	- Class discussion on themes that capture the attention of humanity - Lectures on the kinds of analytical tools developed to understand these themes
CILO 2	- Lecture and demonstrations of different linguistic phenomena - Demonstration of how such phenomena have been captured and accounted for - Class exploration on phenomena outside of linguistics that has captured the attention of scholars past and present - Lecture on some of the analytical tools developed by the scholarship of the past
CILO 3	- Class exploration on comparing the analytical tools found in linguistics in relation to other disciplines

CILO 4	- In-class seminars to explore universal themes through different angles and perspectives
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## 11. ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Learning Journals	30 %	1, 2	Three learning journals assess students abilities to summarize and organize clas discussions, as well as to reflect on them.
Active Participation	15 %	1, 3	Students are required to participate actively in class or through the Moodle forum to articulate and evaluate different viewpoints.
Seminar Presentation	25 %	1, 2, 3	Students are to give a conference style presentation that articulates empirical motivations for the exploration of a chosen theme, and then provide an account for in a chosen perspective.
Term Paper	30 %	2, 3, 4	The term paper requires students to identify a theme and provide both humanistic and scientific perspectives on that theme.

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