



HKU

THE UNIVERSITY
OF HONG KONG
香港大學

COMMONCORE

Exploring Issues of Profound Significance to Humankind

The Common Core Curriculum is a new requirement for undergraduate students at HKU, one of the world's leading universities. It is designed to broaden your horizons beyond your chosen discipline and give you the opportunity to explore issues of profound significance to humankind in the 21st century.

For more information on HKU's Common Core Curriculum, please visit <http://commoncore.hku.hk>

over
160

Common Core courses in 2013

What will you study?

The Common Core Curriculum aims to help you see the interconnectedness and interdependent nature of human existence through exploring the following common human experiences:

- The aesthetic (or symbolic) expressions of ideas and emotions
- The relationship between individuals and communities, and the role of the former in the latter
- The interaction amongst communities on various scales
- The relationships and interdependencies between human beings, science, technology and nature
- The beliefs and values that are essential to human bonding and to mediating tensions within and between groups
- The relationship between our past, present and future

What are the goals?

- To enable students to develop a broader perspective and a critical understanding of the complexities and the interconnectedness of the issues that they are confronted with in their everyday lives
- To cultivate students' appreciation of their own culture and other cultures, and the inter-relatedness among cultures
- To enable students to see themselves as members of global as well as local communities and to play an active role as responsible individuals and citizens in these communities
- To enable students to develop the key intellectual skills that will be further enhanced in their disciplinary studies

How is it structured?

The Common Core Curriculum is divided into four Areas of Inquiry to enable you to explore a range of common human experiences. Each area offers numerous courses. The Areas of Inquiry are:

- Scientific and Technological Literacy
- Humanities
- Global Issues
- China: Culture, State and Society

What is required?

You are normally required to take six Common Core courses, at least one and at most two from each Area of Inquiry. Each Common Core course carries six credits and the Common Core requirements account for 15% of the new 4-Year Curriculum implemented in September 2012.

What will you learn?

While the Common Core Curriculum as a whole will engage you in an exploration of issues of profound significance in relation to a number of fundamental human experiences, the detail of what you will learn will vary from course to course. Hence, each course has its own set of learning outcomes. These learning outcomes are statements that specify precisely what you should be able to do at the end of a course, usually expressed as knowledge, skills, or attitudes.

How will you learn?

Student workload hours for a 6-credit course amount to 120-180 hours. Common Core courses normally consist of 36 contact hours, with a 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week. Within these sessions, you may have first-hand encounters with your subjects of study, be asked to solve problems, or be asked to decide on issues you wish to investigate. The remainder of the hours will be made up through engaging in a number of other relevant learning activities including reading, self-study, fieldwork, visits, group projects, research, and exam preparation.

Why are tutorials important?

Tutorials are an essential and compulsory element of study in the Common Core Curriculum. Tutorials will normally be conducted weekly in groups of no more than 12 students. The purpose of tutorials is to provide a context for you to clarify and deepen your understanding of ideas and issues arising from the course through dialogue with others in an interactive setting. Additionally, tutorials offer an environment for you to improve your communication skills and develop your confidence.

How will you be assessed?

Common Core courses utilize diverse modes of assessment. As well as the more traditional exams, tests and quizzes, you are likely to be required to demonstrate your knowledge and skills in a variety of other ways, for example, by keeping a journal to reflect on lectures and readings, making a movie, engaging in fieldwork, undertaking research, constructing a website or doing group projects and presentations.



Reflecting on Human Experience through Literature



This course draws on the commonality of human experiences by exposing students to a range of novels and texts on topics which will enable them to understand human relationships and the social fabric of human communities, to engage in critical, interpretive and analytical exploration of human qualities and experiences, and appreciate the ways in which humans express their experiences through literature and arts.

Dr Gary Harfitt, Faculty of Education

"This course is based on a set number of literary texts which contain universal themes including love and romance, family and culture, war and conflict, and man's relationship with the world. Through interactive lectures and tutorials we will examine how these literary texts have mirrored our own lives and cultures and how they help us to better understand relationships, scientific development, human conflict as well as our own moral and ethical well-being."

A Student's Experience

"The lectures were inspiring and interesting. They are strongly related to current affairs and help increase our awareness of social issues."

CCHU9036 Humanities

<http://commoncore.hku.hk/cchu9036/>

"All things in the world are linked together, in one way or another. Not a single thing comes into being without some relationship to something else." - Keiji Nishitani

Dr Chad Lykins, Faculty of Education

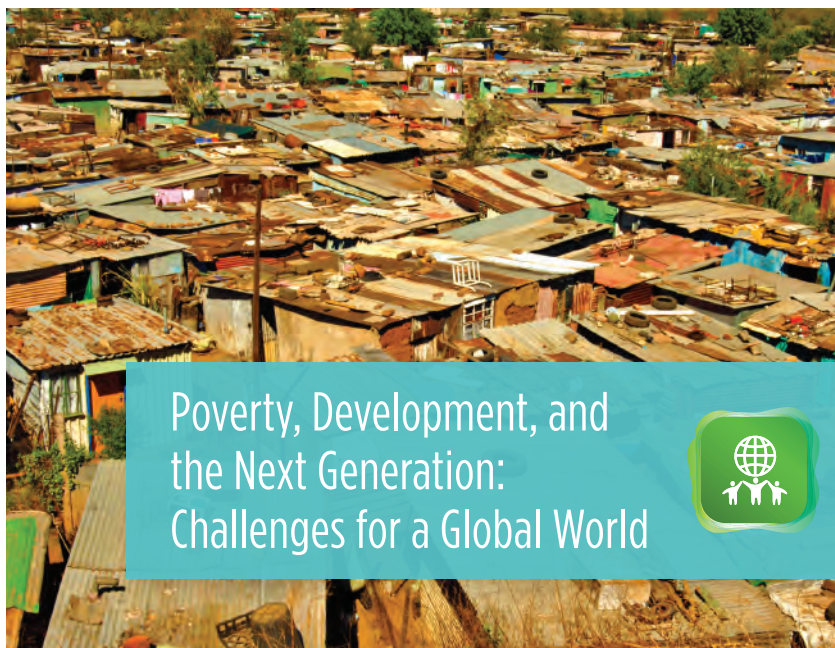
"We look at what individuals and institutions in Hong Kong and the rest of the world are doing to address poverty and inequality. Rather than standing back as spectators, our students undertake a Challenge Project that aims to make the world a better place."

A Student's Experience

"The best thing about this course is the interaction between the teacher and us. We discuss a wide range of current real-life issues in an academic way."

CCGL9005 Global Issues

<http://commoncore.hku.hk/ccgl9005/>



Poverty, Development, and the Next Generation: Challenges for a Global World



Poverty is a global problem and increasingly affects people in Hong Kong. This course will investigate poverty and development work through case studies from Hong Kong, Mainland China, and other countries. Students will gain in-depth understanding and skills to analyze local and global responses to poverty, such as the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals, the UN Charter on Human Rights, and the Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labour.



Cyberspace Crime: Technology and Ethics



The internet (aka cyberspace) has become a platform in many arenas, including social, cultural, and public policy. Consequently, great amounts of information and data transmitted by and stored in cyberspace are vulnerable to attack by hackers and abuse by internet users. This course adopts a holistic approach to introduce the fundamental concepts of cyberspace crime, not only from the technological point of view, but also from the legal and ethical points of view.

Dr K.P. Chow, Faculty of Engineering

"Through the discussion of different cyberspace crime cases, the course aims to help students to become a scientifically and technologically equipped and responsible individual and citizen in the cyberspace. The topics include internet piracy, internet privacy and data leakage, freedom of speech in cyberspace, online pornography, and cyberspace theft. Famous cyberspace crime and non-crime cases in Hong Kong and the rest of the world will be analyzed, e.g. the Edison Chen photo scandal case and the Megaupload case."

A Student's Experience

"It allowed me to understand some complex concepts that were applicable to my daily life."

CCST9029 Scientific and Technological Literacy
<http://commoncore.hku.hk/ccst9029/>

"The one real goal of education is to leave a person asking questions." - Max Beerbohm

Dr Aaron Magnan-Park & Dr Esther Yau, Faculty of Arts

"We want our students to learn to read culture by analyzing films. We want them to think critically about the way in which Hong Kong cinema transforms in a context of global-local interdependency, technological advancement and shifting tastes."

A Student's Experience

"Studying different theories through cinematic texts broadens my horizon, enhances my critical thinking, and enables me to think in perspectives other than the usual."



Hong Kong Cinema through a Global Lens



With a selection of Hong Kong films, this course aims to help students attain a thorough understanding of the two-way relationship between the local, popular entertainment and the global film scene by investigating the major questions concerning globalization. Film critics, scholars and film-makers will be invited to conduct workshops and guest lectures.

CCGL9001 Global Issues
<http://commoncore.hku.hk/ccgl9001/>



China's Modernization in the East Asian Context



Is modernization just about economic development and the construction of a state structure? Or should it encompass broader advances in ideology and the embracement of universal values and norms like the protection of human rights? This course enables students to understand and appreciate China's quest for modernity since the 19th century, contextualized against the development of her neighbours in East Asia.

Dr Victor Teo, Faculty of Arts

"By inviting students to scrutinize the dynamics and processes involved in China's quest for modernity, we hope they can think about the implications modernization brings at different levels and appreciate the normative issues involved. We hope students will be able to appreciate the multifaceted dimensions of development and acquire a better understanding of contemporary China and East Asian affairs."

A Student's Experience

"We are encouraged to think, analyze, and develop an overall understanding of the issues with a holistic point of view."

CCCH9006 China: Culture, State and Society
<http://commoncore.hku.hk/ccch9006/>

"Education should be related to an intercultural and interdependent world." - Miguel Ángel Escotet

Dr Petula Ho, Faculty of Social Sciences

"Students are encouraged to reach out, talk to people, learn from their experiences and make films on cross-border intimacies. We have a screening event which is a dialogue between the teacher, the students and the community about what they have found through their observations, interviews and analyses. The students come to be knowledge producers rather than passive learners."

A Student's Experience

"It is hands down the best course I've taken. It's very well analyzed and organized. It really puts warmth into my heart how the teacher tries to engage us."

Love, Marriage and Sex in Modern China



This course begins from issues that are personally relevant to young people – mate choice, love, marriage, sex and family – with a view to helping students think about the historical and cultural roots of values concerning love, sexuality, marriage, and family life in China. Case studies and documentary films will be used to enable students to understand the diverse characteristics of "Chinese" ways of life.

CCCH9013 China: Culture, State and Society
<http://commoncore.hku.hk/ccch9013/>

Sexuality and Gender: Diversity and Society

"I think this course is very close to us at heart. We feel connected to the issues and we are encouraged to raise questions about the issues."



Social Divisions in Contemporary Societies

"This course makes me think about something I've never thought about before. It has changed my perspective towards different groups of people in society – especially after our visit to a refuge shelter."



Love, Marriage and Sex in Modern China

"The assessment method of this course is very interesting – video production instead of exams!"



Body, Beauty and Fashion

"It helps me develop critical thinking skills and raises my awareness of a lot of issues that wouldn't have caught my attention had I not taken the course."



Catastrophes, Cultures, and the Angry Earth

"I am amazed to learn the connection between past and present events."



The Students' Experiences

"Common Core courses provide a new environment for us to learn because it is rare to have students from different disciplines discussing issues together. I've become more accepting of different perspectives."

Poverty, Development, and the Next Generation: Challenges for a Global World

"Interactive. Interesting. It makes me think deeply about issues relating to development."



Origin and Evolution of Life

"There are lots of videos used in class to stimulate thoughts, and we are learning in a fun way."



Local Cultures and Global Markets

"This course integrates many aspects of things in real life. It shows the inter-relationship of issues and is very inspiring."



Our Living Environment

"This course has changed the way I look at things. It helps me look far beyond the surface with a curious mind."



Hong Kong Culture in the Context of Globalization

"I like the interdisciplinary approach, incorporating different examples of Hong Kong culture to illustrate an encompassing point."



The Science of Crime Investigation

"Discussions during our tutorials are stimulating. As a result of these discussions, I am able to think diversely, taking into consideration other people's views."

