

General Education

The General Education programme is designed to broaden the interests of students, give them a wider perspective, and cultivate in them the ability to understand the major issues of contemporary life. The challenge of rational inquiry and discussion is also emphasized. These courses are an important part of university education.

Course Description

(Unless otherwise specified, all are 3-unit term courses of three hours of lecture per week.)

GEP 182B

Thinking Through Writing (Chinese)

This course aims to cultivate students' consciousness of language, in particular, their mother tongue (Chinese). Class discussion and debate, critical reading and writing will be used to improve the students' capability of language and their methodology of thinking. Distinction between creative and explicative thinking, and relationship between literal and metaphorical expression will also be addressed. Comparison of the Chinese language with a foreign language (usually English) is also made to explain the distinctive features of thinking through the Chinese language and writing in Chinese.

GEP 201Y

Experiencing Architecture

The purpose of this course is to introduce non-architecture undergraduates to the ways in which architecture fulfills the varied and conflicting demands to be beautiful, functional, economic and efficient. Good design is the masterful resolution of the conflicting demands. There will also be an emphasis on the ways in which the students, as users and future clients can play an active and constructive role in the design of buildings. Buildings on the campus and in Hong Kong will be used as case studies.

GEP 207D

Art and Literature

The purpose of this course is to enhance students' (particularly non-arts Majors) aesthetic education. Emphasis will be placed on actual appreciation rather than theoretical discussion, though some basic concepts on the relationship between art and literature will be introduced. Course materials include topics on common properties between art (mainly painting and music) and literature, and trends in art and literary history, and in the cinema. Lectures will draw upon visual materials available on the Internet, and students will be encouraged to draw upon these sources and other visual materials in their papers and/or projects.

GEP 213B

Reading and Writing for the Theatre: From Play to Stage

This is a course on dramatic reading and writing for students interested in dramatic literature and writing plays for the stage; its aim is to expose them to modern and contemporary drama as well as to improve their language skills in both Chinese and English mastery of the mediumistic requirements for their chosen medium. The targeted student group for this course will draw from interested student members of the four Drama Societies of the University, but will take in any interested students enrolled in the general education programme of the university. Workshops or seminars will be organized through the semester, featuring outside speakers.

GEP 221F

Appreciation of Contemporary Art

This course focuses on the major trends of modern and postmodern visual art. Emphasis will be put on the development of art media and concepts as well as the interaction between them. Through case studies and class discussions, students will experience how to view contemporary art in an objective yet creative way.

GEP 221P

Between Chinese and Western Cultures: A Comparison

This course is designed to compare the cultures between China and the West. Topics include the meaning of culture, the spiritual tendencies of both cultures, the spirit of arts, the idea of philosophies, the political structures, the social structures and the idea of individuality, etc.

GEP 223P

Chinese Historical Resources and Cultural Industry

This course is designed to discuss aspects of Chinese history and culture that have been historically and currently been appropriated into the development of commerce and industries in China. In addition, topics introducing the history of development of cultural industry in the Mainland and creative industries in HK, in particular, their interaction and synergetic development, will also be covered.

GEP 240M

Astronomy

A qualitative and non-mathematical survey of major ideas in astronomy. Topics covered will include: earth and sky, moon, calendar and time keeping, origin of modern astronomy, light and telescope, starlight and atoms, the sun, binary stars and their significance, stellar evolution, neutron stars and black holes, Milky Way, galaxies, quasars, the structure of the universe, solar system, meteorites, asteroids and comets. This course will include one night observation. This course aims at introducing basic concepts rather than mathematical and factual details. Lectures are designed not only to present a volume of knowledge, but also to arouse students' curiosity in how nature works. Optional star-gazing trips as well as visits to Hong Kong Space Museum will be arranged.

GEP 245L

Religion in Chinese Culture

The aim of this course is to help students understand the basic religious characteristics of Chinese culture and the relationship between religions and the daily life of Chinese people. The topics included are: 1) ancestral worship; 2) beliefs in the world of *gui* and *shen* (demons and divinities); 3) heavenly punishment and human sufferings; 4) religious ideas of longevity and *xian*-immortality; 5) temples and cults of local deities; 6) types of religious associations; 7) *fenshui* and other religious arts of divinations; and 8) religious festivals.

GEP 248L

Christianity and Western Culture

This course aims to explore the interplay of the Christian faith and Western culture in the last two millennium. Through the study of history, literature, arts, music and film, it attempts to understand the role played by Christianity in Western culture and society. How academic, politics, moral, life styles are influenced by Christianity and how culture has modified the expression of faith.

GEP 258S**Psychology of Everyday Life**

A broad-based and non-technical introduction to the study of behaviour and mental processes. Topics include learning, development, psychotherapy, the brain and states of consciousness, sensation and perception, memory, social behaviour, personality, psychological disorders, coping and health, stress and others.

GEP 2835**Culture of Hong Kong**

This course introduces students to a holistic analysis of culture in Hong Kong. It looks at the Chinese and the non-Chinese, the modern and the traditional, the rural and the urban, the cosmopolitan and parochial, the popular and the elite, and how all these components interact to construct and reconstruct cultural identities in Hong Kong.

GEP 2921**Philosophy, Film and Life**

The course aims to explore aspects of human life as reflected in philosophy and film. It introduces aesthetic concepts, film languages, and different schools and styles of film-making. It will also explore the philosophical implications of films. Through selected film, students will be encouraged to develop critical thinking skills and concern with the meaning of life. Discussion will focus on three categories: 1) films concerning humanities: the holiness and darkness of human nature, the joy and sadness of love and the absurdity of life; 2) films concerning virtual reality: the implications of the emulated world in sci-fi films, and the crisis of self-consciousness and memory; and 3) the metaphysical significance in films: the image of death, the origin of holiness and evil, and theism and atheism.

GEP 4310**Outline of Chinese Culture**

This course introduces the basic concepts of Chinese culture. It includes the following contents: 1) characteristics of Chinese culture; 2) Chinese religious concepts; 3) Chinese views of life; 4) Chinese politics; 5) the Chinese society; 6) Chinese ways of thinking; 7) the Chinese intelligentsia; and 8) culture problems that modern China faces.

Study Scheme

1. Unit requirements
 - (a) Secondary 6 and Secondary 7 entrants are required to complete 12 units of general education courses.
 - (b) Students admitted with an exemption of 43 units and 63 units are required to complete 9 units and 6 units of general education courses respectively.
2. All students are required to complete the compulsory course GEP 4310 and take other general education courses to fulfil the general education unit requirement.