

Cultural Studies

Course List

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* Courses offered in 2005-06 and before.

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Religious Studies

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* Course offered in 2005-06 and before.

^A Course listed in Area I since 2006-07.

[] Old course code used in 2005-06 and before.

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Course Descriptions

(Unless otherwise specified, all are 3-unit term courses of two hours of lecture and one hour of tutorial per week.)

Cultural Studies**Core Courses**

CRS1001

Introduction to Cultural Studies

Through examining texts, artistic forms and discursive practices that reflect and produce different cultures, students will take part in delineating the working definition(s), methodology and critical awareness of the subject. Concepts such as multiculturalism, diaspora, hybridity, globalism/localism, transnationalism will be discussed. Emphasis will be given to Hong Kong culture as a basic reference point in its contact and interaction with other cultures. (Not for students who have taken MLC1001.)

CRS1002

Interdisciplinary Study of Contemporary Culture

This course endeavours to find ways of integrating different approaches such as history, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, communication, journalism and literary analysis towards a critical and theoretical study on contemporary culture, with specific references to scenes in music, literature, media and film. Actual processes of contemporary culture in the making are emphasized. (Not for students who have taken MLC1002.)

CRS1008

From Literary to Cultural Studies

The objective of this course is to expose students to a variety of literary genres, poetry, fiction and drama, so that they will read these texts and learn basic reading strategies in dealing with the traditional trinity of literary forms. As students in Intercultural Studies, they not only should treat the idea of text liberally, but also should be acquainted with the more text-based works in order to lay down the groundwork for future cultural studies courses. (Not for students who have taken MLC1008.)

Elective Courses

CRS2005

Culture and Travel

There are two characteristics in culture: regional (space) and accumulative (time), and is the way to acquire various cultural experiences from different space and time. From the cultural perspective, there are different levels of travel: from “tourism” for pleasure, “travel” for different purposes, like study, works, business or military, to “journey” for life experience and eternal truth. This course aims to provide theoretical reflections and historical analysis on the relation between culture and travel, and in particular, the wide range of symbolisms of cultural experience of travel. It will be able to help students explore the process of cross-cultural interactions as well as the knowledge of cross-cultural management in travel. (Not for students who have taken MLC2005.)

CRS2006

Modern Science Fiction and Film

This is an introduction to history, theory and representative works of science fiction in intercultural context. Films will be studied in conjunction with the written version. Science fiction as alternate worlds, alien encounter and cyberpunk literary will be included. (Not for students who have taken MLC2006 or UGD210D.)

CRS2014

Body Politics and Representations

This course investigates the intersection between body politics and different forms of representation of the body in literature, art, films and other media. It focuses on the persistent Western fascination with the human form in art. Through a reading and analysis of literary texts, major paintings and contemporary media cultural forms such as science fiction films, comics and music videos, the class proposes to examine how representation of the body can be intricately linked to cultural and sexual differences. As a concept, body politics in this class is studied as a site for a critical appraisal of cultural identity, gender and sexuality. (Not for students who have taken MLC2014.)

CRS2016

Modernity and Urban Culture

This course is an introduction to the formation of modernity in relation to various aspects of urban culture. Cities which have played a significant role in the process of modernization, such as Venice, Florence, London, Paris, Manchester, New York, will serve as ‘text’ for analysis. Plans, architecture, artistic and intellectual movements as well as modes of everyday life of these cities will be utilized to demonstrate how modern ways of thinking, seeing, feeling and living come into being. The course will also reflect on the specificity of Hong Kong’s experience of urbanization and the characteristics of Asian Modernity. Interdisciplinary in approach, the course will employ a wide range of visual images and audio-visual materials to explain the dynamism between modernity and urban culture. (Not for students who have taken MLC2016 or UGC204P.)

CRS2021

Cosmopolitan Culture and Hong Kong Urbanscape

As a cultural melting-pot, Hong Kong provides an excellent case study on the relationship between interculturalism and the urbanity of megacities in the world. The question of cultural identity - a plurality of selves - will be explored through a study of Hong Kong culture with an emphasis on the ways music, literature, TV, film, in fact the whole technoscape and mediascape, which have been a mixture of Japanese, American and European components, can be related to its unique geographical location and its overcrowded, mishmash, disjunctive cityscape. (Not for students who have taken MLC2021.)

CRS2022

Feminisms: East and West

Feminism has contributed to one of the most radical epistemological revolutions since late nineteenth century, with significant effects on history, culture and society. As feminism evolved through the twentieth century, it has been challenged to take up differences posted by various racial, class, cultural, and religious contexts, internal to feminist movement itself. This course will therefore not only outline the way feminism(s) has emerged as one of the major tools to understand, analyse and reconstruct modern culture and society, but also address the common ground and differences between women in Chinese and Western societies, and its effects on the debates and conflicts in feminisms of East and West. (Not for students who have taken MLC2022 or UGC227P.)

CRS2023

Technoscience and Culture

We are now experiencing fast developments in technoscience in the modern world. As everything turns electronic and hi-tech, e.g., email, ebanking, ecommerce, plus the newly developed sciences such as cloning, biogenetic engineering, etc., it is important to introduce to students the ways technosciences and mass media bear on our sense of identity and subjectivity. The aim of this course is to help students make sense of different ramifications of contemporary technosciences which have unprecedentedly transformed their everyday life experiences, in other words, to introduce them to the study of technoscience culture. Through a body of fiction, films, T.V. shows, computer mediated communication devices, cybercultural forms (VR and AI), etc., which deal directly with new communication technologies, this class will highlight the radical effects on the centrality of visual culture in the modern world, on the post-modernist self and on virtuality of all kinds. (Not for students who have taken MLC2023.)

CRS2025

Contemporary Consumer Culture

This course surveys a wide range of topics on the commercialization of sports, tourism/leisure as an encounter of cultures/citizens/space, shopping mall and public sphere, and the impact on social and cultural life by the phenomenon of McDisneyization. Other topics such as advertising and pop culture, broadcasting (narrowcasting on the Net), merchandising and iconography in fashion will be examined to review key contemporary issues and debates about cultural consumption. Bringing together work on reception theory in literary studies and philosophy, studies on consumer culture in anthropology and sociology and those on media audiences within media studies, we will address the consequences and effects of increasing cultural commodification and globalization, by exploring into the complex interactions of cultural production and consumption which are relevant in topics such as place and identity, visual culture and hyperreality, representation and communication technologies. Films and animations will be viewed outside class time. Field trips may be arranged. (Not for students who have taken MLC2025.)

CRS2030

Hong Kong Cinema

This course is a survey of Hong Kong cinema, with emphasis on its contemporary development. This course will cover both textual and contextual analyses: we treat Hong Kong cinema as an art form and introduce different ways to appreciate them and criticize them; we also read these films as commercial cultural products to investigate links between movies and society-at-large. The course will introduce basic film theories and film languages. It helps students to reflect on their own relationship with these Hong Kong movies they grow up with, as well as help elucidate the complex relationship between Hong Kong cinema and Hong Kong identity. (Not for students who have taken MLC2030 or UGC224P.)

CRS2031

Understanding Visual Culture

This course introduces students how to understand and be critical of visual culture. We will study carefully and critically various forms of representations to the issues of paintings, illustrations, photography, films, television, and video games. We will learn the languages developed for these visual forms, and how ideologies are structured and conveyed through these visual depictions. In this visual age, while we are bombarded with more and more visual information and sensations, we are also effectively deskilled in our capacities as interpretive beings in critically engaging with these visual representations. This course teaches students how to appreciate the rich hermeneutic possibilities inherent in the visual culture and at the same time to be critical of ways that the viewers are rendered vulnerable to be manipulated by the visual images.

CRS2032

Youth and Popular Culture

This course studies the relationship between youth and popular culture, specifically in view of the rapidly expanding youth culture in recent years. We explore the importance of the factor of age in the study of popular culture, explaining why youths are vulnerable to the manipulation of popular culture, and why their lifestyles and values also dominate popular culture. We also examine how youth identity is constructed around the dynamics between mainstream identity and subcultural identity, and students are given the chance to analyse their own socio-cultural worlds in the various cultural environment, including home, school, concerts, shopping malls, youth magazines, and the cyber-space. This course provides students with an understanding of why youths, in particular, are prone to collective identity, and how they achieve their sense of self through fashion, music, sports, and entertainment.

CRS2033

Reading and Writing for the Theatre: From Play to Stage

This course aims at introducing students to reading dramatic literature, both Chinese and English, in the context of its socio-cultural relevance to contemporary life, namely, to see drama in print or on stage as connecting with issues of topical interest. In addition, it will introduce students to see how the actual process of writing for the stage and creating consumption for the audience is like, drawing attention to mediumistic differences between dramatic literature and theatrical production within the framework of interdisciplinarity. Students will benefit from self-discovery of the two from the analysis and comparison. The course requirements will entail reading certain amount of dramatic works, attending theatrical performances, and the formal writing of reviews. (Not for students who have taken UGD213B.)

CRS2034**Outline of Cultural Theories**

The course will be an introduction to the critical discourses of cultural studies. It aims to provide students with a basic theoretical framework to the understanding and practising of cultural criticisms in contemporary society. The course will outline the theoretical propositions of major thinkers contributing to cultural studies of the last century including those of the Birmingham School, the New Left, the Frankfurt School, the psychoanalysis school, the postmodernists and poststructuralists, etc. Students will be exposed to selected classical writings of major thinkers and learn the questions and methodologies employed by them. The course will equip students with the basic knowledge and concepts in analysing the main issues and practices in cultural studies.

CRS2035**Fashion Culture**

This course introduces students to the historical development of fashion in the 20th century. We study such significant designers as Coco Chanel, Christian Dior, Jean Paul Gaultier, Vivienne Westwood, Rei Kawakubo, Yohji Yamamoto and Alexander McQueen as well as the media representation and the spectatorship of their designs in catwalk, photography, magazines, popular music, film and literature. Besides, we also explore the cultural meanings of fashion in relation to consumerism, fetishism, pop art, punk culture, (post)modernity, transvestism and orientalism to see how fashion articulates our body, identity, gender, sexuality, social value and morality.

CRS2036**Queer Theory and Culture**

Queer Theories emerged in the 1990s as some of the most vital analytical tools in the fields of Gender Studies and Cultural Studies. This course offers students an opportunity to study this strand of critical thought in-depth. It will examine theories of queer from four major approaches, namely: historical, political, reading and performative. Topics of the course will cover a wide range of subjects including identities, sexualities, temporalities, homophobia, activism, deviance, and transgression. This course is particularly suited for students who would like to acquire the knowledge of a particular theoretical approach and to engage it in a critical examination of literature and culture today.

CRS2037**Cultural Policy**

This course will introduce students to the historical and contemporary debate in Hong Kong and around the world on what constitutes culture and how governments and other organizations can help sustain cultural development. Particular emphasis will be placed on the context of Hong Kong and other cosmopolitan cities to examine how cultural policy can help shape a pluralist society. We will also discuss the challenges and distortion posed by economic and management criteria practised in today's capitalist societies to the intrinsic value of culture and the arts.

CRS2038

Summer Internship

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Process of cultural production and cultural practices at various levels are essential to the training of cultural sensitivity and analysis in cultural studies. This course aims to provide students with on-site experience of cultural production and practices for their reflection and integration of cultural theories and concepts they learnt in regular classes. Students will be introduced to a range of cultural institutions and culture-related non-governmental organizations for a placement of eight weeks between May to July during summer. Students will be asked to attend several sessions of orientations and evaluation before and during their placement.

CRS2039

Consuming Communication Technologies and its Cultural Consequences

This course examines new Communication Technologies (CTs) as they are increasingly becoming part of our everyday life, and assesses how they produce a set of new conditions and context through which we perceive our world and social relationship, in short the cultural consequences (CCs) of using these technological devices. Topics include television, mobile phone, the Internet, and the integrated consoles. Students are required to reflect on ways in which the new Communication Technologies can be used actively for their own ends. (Not for students who have taken UGC228P.)

CRS2040

Cultures of Popular Music

This course provides the students with a knowledge of and insight into the key concepts, the historical development, and the socio-cultural implications of popular music both in international scene and local context. We study various music genres such as rock'n'roll, heavy metal, punk, dance music, rap and hip hop, electronic music and Broadway musicals in relation to youth identity, fans culture, gender and racial politics. We also examine and evaluate how music consumption is mixed with personal relaxation, socialization, economic system, political discourse, and technological innovation.

CRS2041

Gender and Theatre

The course aims to introduce the perspectives in gendering theatre which is especially suitable for students who have interest in performing art and gender studies. We will discuss when theatre is constituted as a realistic reflection or fantastic world, what kinds of gender issues can be raised out? Any arguments that performers and audiences voice-out and act-out? What kinds of fantasy can be passed? Through analysing scripts and performances, we will focus on the cultural politics of artists and reader/audiences, so as to point out the relationship between gender politics and theatre.

CRS2042

Xiqu and Culture

The course introduces the student a basic knowledge of Xiqu (Chinese Opera), including its artistic features as a performing art, and the characteristics of different kinds of local Xiqu, such as Beijing Opera, Kunqu, Shanghai Opera and Cantonese Opera. Based on the basic knowledge of the art-form, we will discuss the cultural issues reflecting in the plays and performances. Through the textual analysis of scripts and performances, students will be introduced different topics of Xiqu related to cultural studies. (Not for students who have taken UGC229P.)

CRS2043

Violence and Horror Culture

This course investigates the dark side of modernity. In contrast to the optimistic faith in unlimited progress brought about by rationality, knowledge and technology, critical theories demonstrate how violence, monstrosity and horror constitute the very condition of modern culture. From our fascination with horror films to the widespread fear of terrorism in Western world, violence and horror shape our lives in all sorts of ways, both real and imagined.

This course analyses the horror texts from different media and genres, such as Sade's erotic stories, Gothic fictions, avant-garde writing, digital artworks and horror films, etc. Through the in-depth analysis on visual and literary representations of violence, monstrosity and horror, we will reflect on the fundamental political concepts of modernity, such as human rights, sovereignty of nation-state, fascism, capitalism and terrorism.

CRS2044

Martial Arts Novel and Film

This course introduces students the cultural studies of martial arts novel and its film adaptation. "Martial arts genre," here refers not only to the traditional swordplay film and chivalric tales, but also includes the action cinema that is contextualized in pre-modern time, contemporary setting or sci-fi scenario. We examine the historical development, the socio-political implication, the cinematic form, the martial arts techniques and special effects, the style of editing and narrative, the images of the martial artists, the masculinity and the femininity represented in the films and fiction produced by various writers and directors in modern China and Hong Kong.

CRS2045

Film Classics

This course aims at introducing some of the major film classics from America (Hollywood), Europe (France and Italy), Japan, and China produced from the earliest era to circa 1960. They will be viewed and studied in a cultural and historical context, together with detailed analysis of their form and content in order to understand their "canonical" status. Basic film theories — especially those dealing with film genres and film "auteurs" — will also be used.

CRS3001

Imperialism, Colonialism and Culture

This course investigates aspects of cultural domination through European colonial powers in Asia. This involves: 1) the analysis of the ideological foundation of imperialism and the development of European colonization in Asia; and 2) the consequences of European cultural domination such as its impact on local cultures, reactions by the local community, repercussions and relicts of imperialism in contemporary Asian societies. Cultural domination by Britain, France, The Netherlands, and Germany as a means of securing and expanding economic and political domination in countries such as China, India, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia will be examined and compared. (Not for students who have taken MLC3001.)

CRS3002

Film and Literature: Inter-media Studies

This course's objective is to acquaint students with the kindred relationships between film and literature as well as to help them develop a more critical awareness to appreciate these two media from a cultural studies perspective. It will cover the following topics: introduction to the art of film, the generic and mediumistic comparisons of film and literature: film and the novel or film and drama or the theatre, etc. (Not for students who have taken MLC3002.)

CRS3006

Special Topics in Cultural Studies

The specific topics of this course vary from year to year. Generally, they can be genres, systems of representation, cultural forms, issues and/or theories related to the dynamic process of interactivity among cultures.

Students are allowed to take this course more than once, and gain the units each time they pass the course. However, students cannot take courses with the same course code more than once in a single term.

CRS3014

Graduation Thesis

This course provides an opportunity for students to undertake supervised study on a selected topic of interest. Students will be led to examine aspects of the selected topic, conduct a critical literature review and a systematic investigation of the topic they have chosen. Students are required to regularly discuss with the teacher concrete findings in their research and submit written progress reports as scheduled by the teacher and a complete project report at the end of the term. (Not for students who have taken MLC3014.)

CRS3017

Globalization and Culture

This course investigates the multifaceted relationships between globalization and culture. Under the influence of globalization and increasing international trade, are we leading more diverse or homogenous lifestyles? Does globalization promote or hamper cultural changes? Why do the commercial world and cultural theorists read globalization so differently? In this course we will investigate how the developing global culture is influencing our daily lives from the perspectives of national and cultural identity, information society, consumerism, popular culture, etc. Emphasizing both theory and its application in analysing different kinds of texts (e.g., literature, films, maps, fashions, theme parks, shopping malls, etc.), we will discuss the changing meanings of citizenship, mobilization, technology, capital, space, and time under the influence of globalization. (Not for students who have taken MLC3017.)

CRS3018

Feminist Readings and Women's Writings

This course aims to introduce students to the various ways of engaging literary texts from feminist perspectives. Taking literary texts as a major site of political contestation, women have developed a tradition of readings and writings that contributes to multiple interpretations of modern culture. Topics of the course will include introduction to various feminist literary theories, representation of women in various cultural texts, and the traditions of women's writings as evolved across cultures. (Not for students who have taken MLC3018.)

CRS3020

Cultural Studies in China Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan

This course studies the discourse of Cultural Studies in Hong Kong, China, and Taiwan in recent years, explaining why cultural studies matters in the study of contemporary Chinese cultures in these Chinese communities. This course traces how cultural studies as an interdisciplinary discipline develops in these areas, and in what ways this study engages with and enriches the specific socio-cultural discourses the communities have been facing, including (post)colonialism, modernization, racial diversification, cultural identity, feminism, etc. This course also explores how we can use the perspectives of cultural studies to understand the new Chinese identities developing in different Chinese communities.

CRS3021**Gendering Modernity**

This course is a critical examination of the conceptions, visions, experiences, and critiques of modernity from a gender perspective. Through a comparative analysis of theoretical texts, sociological accounts, cultural narratives, and visual representations of modernity by men and women, we will explore two related sets of issues. First, we will discuss the ways in which dominant understanding, representations and critiques of modernity are grounded in and structured by gender(ed) distinctions and hierarchies. Second, we will explore how men and women experience modernity differently on account of the distinctive subject positions available to them, thus affecting also how they relate to and partake in the discourses and critiques of modernity.

CRS3022**Myth, Fantasy and Culture**

The course will present a selection of primitive myths, legends, fables, fairy tales, etc., from the cultural traditions of China, Greece, India, Babylon and Egypt. The topics of study include the world's origin, creation and destruction, culture heroes, time and eternity, death and rebirth, memory and oblivion, transformation, etc. Students will be guided to explore the multiple meanings underlying the fantastical happenings and the symbolic narrative: on the one hand, the specific physical setting, social setting and beliefs that shape the myths and so the individual culture under study; on the other hand, the aspirations, existential reflections and psychological insights - aspects of the human experience that are universal across cultures and times. Contemporary manifestations of the mythical images under study will also be discussed. (Not for students who have taken CRS2017 or MLC2017 or UGC206P.)

CRS3023**Theories and Politics of Representation**

Representation is a key concept in cultural studies and a subject of intense theorization and discussion among cultural thinkers and practitioners. This course will introduce students to some influential writings on representation and explore important issues in the politics of representation. Through close reading of theoretical texts and critical examination of cultural texts engaging different modes and issues of representation, the class seeks to help students reflect on representational practices and politics we encounter in contemporary societies.

CRS3024**Creativity and Creative Industries**

This course explores how creativity has been understood historically, how creativity is being incorporated by our new knowledge economy, subjecting it under globalization and new technologies to become a new capitalist tool. The course is separated into three parts. In the first part we examine how creativity as a concept is developed historically, and specifically how it is associated with the Romanticist myth of genius. The second part examines the genealogy of the changing concepts from "The Culture Industry" to "Culture Industries" and "Creative Industries." The objective of this part is to offer a critical study of today's creative industries and the creative class. The third part explores how individual students can exercise their own creativity within their own confines, and how creativity can still be empowering and productive even within the capitalist hegemony. Students are also given the chance to reflect on the internal contradictions between creativity as an activity and capitalism as an economic structure.

CRS3025

Seminar in Cultural Theories

Contemporary critique of culture draws on a wide range of theories from the materialist school, structuralist and semiotic analysis, psychoanalysis, to postmodernist and poststructuralist discourses. In order to provide students with a handle to more systematic understanding of cultural studies, the seminar is designed for an advance study of cultural theories or theorists. It aims to provide students with an opportunity to investigate the texts, theories and concepts that have significantly shaped cultural studies. The course can be multi-taking. The seminar of each year will focus on certain influential theorists and texts and examine them closely throughout the course. Students will be guided to read selected works of influential thinkers for an understanding toward theorizing of culture and practising criticism in contemporary society.

Students are allowed to take this course more than once, and gain the units each time they pass the course. However, students cannot take courses with the same course code more than once in a single term.

Religious Studies

(Please refer to the course descriptions of the Religious Studies programme.)

Study Scheme**I. Major Programme****A. Applicable to students admitted in 2006-07 and thereafter**

Students are required to complete a minimum of 66 units of courses:

- (i) Required Courses:
 - First Year of Attendance*
 - CRS1001, 1002 and 1008 9 units
 - CRS1111 and any one course to be chosen from among 6 units
 - CRS1122, 1123 or 1141

- (ii) Elective Courses:
 - Second and Third Years of Attendance*
 - Any seventeen courses prefixed CRS at 2000 or above 51 units
 - level, of which at least three courses are from Common Area of Cultural and Religious Studies and at least ten courses are from Cultural Studies

Total: 66 units

Note: Major students of Cultural Studies may opt for a declared concentration of Religion and Culture (please refer to the study scheme of the Religious Studies programme for details).

The Major Programme requirement for second-year entrants can be viewed on the homepage of the Academic Affairs Section, <<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/aas/>>.

B. Applicable to students admitted in 2005-06

Students are required to complete a minimum of 66 units of courses:

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|------|--|--------------------|
| (i) | Required Courses:
<i>First Year of Attendance</i>
CRS1001, 1002 and 1008
Any two courses to be chosen from CRS1111, 1122, 1141 | 9 units
6 units |
| (ii) | Elective Courses:
<i>Second and Third Years of Attendance</i>
Any seventeen courses prefixed CRS at 2000 or above level, of which at least three courses are from Common Area of Cultural and Religious Studies and at least ten courses are from Cultural Studies | 51 units |

Total: 66 units

Note: Major students of Cultural Studies may opt for a declared concentration of Religion and Culture (please refer to the study scheme of the Religious Studies programme for details).

The Major Programme requirement for second-year entrants can be viewed on the homepage of the Academic Affairs Section, <<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/aas/>>.

C. Applicable to students admitted in 2004-05

Students are required to complete a minimum of 66 units of courses:

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|------|--|----------|
| (i) | Required Courses:
<i>First Year of Attendance</i>
CRS1001, 1002, 1008, 1111, 1122 and 1141 | 18 units |
| (ii) | Elective Courses:
<i>Second and Third Years of Attendance</i>
Any sixteen courses prefixed CRS at 2000 or above level, of which at least three courses are from Common Area of Cultural and Religious Studies and at least ten courses are from Cultural Studies | 48 units |

Total: 66 units

Note: Major students of Cultural Studies may opt for a declared concentration of Religion and Culture (please refer to the study scheme of the Religious Studies programme for details).

2. Minor Programme

Students are required to complete a minimum of six courses prefixed CRS, including one of the required courses (CRS1001, 1002 or 1008) and at least four elective courses at CRS2000 or above level in Cultural Studies.

3. Faculty Language Requirement

(Please refer to the “Faculty Language Requirement” of Faculty of Arts for details.)

4. Major/Faculty Requirement for S6 Entrants

(Please refer to the “Major/Faculty Requirement for S6 Entrants” of Faculty of Arts for details.)