

# The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

## Subject Description Form

Please read the notes at the end of the table carefully before completing the form.

<b>Subject Code</b>	ELC1A06
<b>Subject Title</b>	Humanities and Human Relationships Through Films Across Chinese and Western Cultures
<b>Credit Value</b>	3
<b>Level</b>	1
<b>Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	None
<b>Objectives</b>	<p><b>Background</b> This subject aims to enable students to examine the complexity of humanities and human relationship through studying a range of films from both the Western and Eastern cultures.</p> <p>The course offers a vigorous and comprehensive examination of human qualities and experiences through films and culture. Through study of a range of films from Chinese and Western literatures, students can achieve an understanding of individual themes and forms in a comparative critical, interpretative, appreciative and analytical context. The course accommodates a range of individual emphases in literature and culture and theory.</p>
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b> <i>(Note 1)</i>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>learn about films with different themes, and intercultural relations,</li><li>examine methods and theories of comparative literary study</li><li>develop a focused critical understanding of important questions relating to humanities and human experiences.</li></ol> <p>To achieve the above outcomes, students are expected to use language and text structure appropriate to the context, select information critically, and present and support stance and opinion. Demonstrate oral fluency of English Language.</p>

<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b> (Note 2)	<b>Subject Synopsis</b>		
	<b>Indicative Syllabus</b>		
	<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Homework / Assessment</b>
	1	<b>Introduction of the Course</b>  <b>Comparative Approaches to Literature: Theory and Method</b> Introduction to modern critical theory based on the study of literary texts and of critical and theoretical works	HW: Watch assigned films
	2 – 3	<b>Representation of Women in Chinese and Western Literatures</b> Explore issues as the relationship to literary tradition and cultural context, the creation of an authoritative voice, or the representation of women in literature	<b>Films</b> <i>The Piano</i> (1993) / <i>My Fair Lady</i> (1964) 大紅燈籠高高掛 ( <i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> ) (1991)
	4 – 5	<b>Masculinities: Male Heroism</b> Explore the construction of male heroes / manhood / iconic representations of masculinity culturally and socially in films.	<b>Films</b> <i>Gladiator</i> (2000) <i>Ip Man</i> (2008)  Week 5 Assessment 1 – Analytical Film Review (the first draft) 30% Choice of two films for comparison and contrast (1 in English and another in Chinese) + synopsis
	6 – 7	<b>Family Relationship</b> Examines the importance and depiction of family bonds that survives adversity / crisis	<b>Films</b> <i>Little Miss Sunshine</i> (2006) 《喜福會》 ( <i>Joy Luck Club</i> ) (1989)
8 – 9	<b>Theme of Love and Romance</b> Examine the different approaches to literary expressions of love and romance in Chinese and Western films	<b>Films</b> <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (2013) 《天梯》 ( <i>Love Stairs</i> ) (2008)	

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="370 180 495 472">10 – 11</td> <td data-bbox="495 180 1063 472"> <p><b>Images of the Self-identity: East and West</b> Explore the development and formation of self-identity in films and texts in both Chinese and Western settings, focusing on various literary and cinematic depiction of human search of identity and the meaning of self.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1068 180 1485 472"> <p><b>Films</b> <i>The Secret Life of Walter Mitty</i> (2013) 《童夢奇緣》 (<i>Wait 'Til You're Old</i>) (2005)</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="370 472 495 695"></td> <td data-bbox="495 472 1063 695"> <p><i>During tutorial</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consolidation and feedback</li> <li>- Academic presentation skills</li> <li>- Language items for academic presentations</li> <li>- Questions about Assessment 2</li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="1068 472 1485 695"> <p>Week 10 Assessment 2 – Analytical Film Review (the final draft) 40%</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="370 695 495 951">12 - 13</td> <td data-bbox="495 695 1063 951"> <p>Concluding the course</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1068 695 1485 951"> <p>Week 12 – 13 Assessment 3 Pair / Group Presentation (Analytical Film Review – One film) in-class 30%</p> </td> </tr> </table>	10 – 11	<p><b>Images of the Self-identity: East and West</b> Explore the development and formation of self-identity in films and texts in both Chinese and Western settings, focusing on various literary and cinematic depiction of human search of identity and the meaning of self.</p>	<p><b>Films</b> <i>The Secret Life of Walter Mitty</i> (2013) 《童夢奇緣》 (<i>Wait 'Til You're Old</i>) (2005)</p>		<p><i>During tutorial</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consolidation and feedback</li> <li>- Academic presentation skills</li> <li>- Language items for academic presentations</li> <li>- Questions about Assessment 2</li> </ul>	<p>Week 10 Assessment 2 – Analytical Film Review (the final draft) 40%</p>	12 - 13	<p>Concluding the course</p>	<p>Week 12 – 13 Assessment 3 Pair / Group Presentation (Analytical Film Review – One film) in-class 30%</p>
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12 - 13	<p>Concluding the course</p>	<p>Week 12 – 13 Assessment 3 Pair / Group Presentation (Analytical Film Review – One film) in-class 30%</p>								
<p><b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b> (Note 3)</p>	<p>This course examines the commonality of human experiences (ILO a) organised under five universal themes: <i>representation of women, masculinity, family relationship, love and romance and self-identity</i> (ILO a), in both the Chinese and Western cultures (ILO a) in films as detailed in the indicative syllabus above.</p> <p>Students will develop skills and attitudes (ILOs b &amp; c) focusing on their own self by self-analytical and life-long learning activities (ILOs b &amp; c) carried out during lectures and tutorials.</p> <p>In the tutorials a blended delivery approach will be applied, involving instruction, interaction through in-class discussions, oral presentations and exposure to films. Tutorials will include teaching input and individual, group or pair work, movie appreciation, discussing meaning and comparative films.</p>									

**Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes**

(Note 4)

Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)		
		a.	b.	c.
<b>Continuous Assessment*</b>	<b>100%</b>			
1. Analytical Film Review (1 <sup>st</sup> draft)	30%	✓	✓	✓
2. Analytical Film Review (Final draft)	40%	✓	✓	✓
3. Pair / Group Presentation (1 Analytical Film Review)	30%	✓	✓	✓
Total	100 %			

*\*Weighting of assessment methods/tasks in continuous assessment may be different, subject to each subject lecturer.*

**Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:**

Assignment 1 – Analytical Film Review (1<sup>st</sup> draft)

Assignment 1 requires students to critically analyse 2 films, one from the Chinese culture and another from the Western (ILO a) with reference to the theories and aspects learnt (ILO b). Prior to the submission of this assignment, students are required to do two things: (1) Submit a proposal form with two film titles for approval, and (2) read the some required readings (a total of 63 pages) and some reference readings (approximately 354 pages) followed by a student-led in-class discussion on the relevant theories they have read and aspects concerned for the writing of this analysis. As students are required to write a short synopsis of their two chosen films, they have to read film reviews and commentaries of their chosen films to justify their choice of films. This assignment assesses students’ critical analysis (ILOs b & c) through their choice of films. By the time when the assessment is submitted, a significant part of the subject knowledge, namely comparative approaches to Literature (theory & method), will be expected to be included (ILOs b & c). Students are required to produce the Analytical Film Review in English.

Assignment 2 – Analytical Film Review (final draft)

Assignment 2 assesses students’ ability to add informed personal response (ILOs a, b & c) by applying the theories in comparing and contrasting different aspects of their chosen films focusing on the differences (ILOs a & b) to the first draft. To do so, students are expected to read extensively film reviews and film analyses written by credible commentators for the development of balanced arguments and their own responses (books, journals and websites). They are required to acknowledge outside sources used (at least 4) demonstrating the sufficiency of their reading. The assignment will be submitted in Week 10, so an understanding of all the subject knowledge will be expected (ILO b). They should demonstrate their ability to support their arguments with relevant comparative theories acquired through reading of required readings (a total of 29 pages) and reference readings (approximately 111 pages) as well as include aspects they have read and learnt throughout the course. This assignment also

	<p>tests students' ability to write clearly, succinct answers (ILO c) which demonstrate their critical and analytical skills (ILOs b &amp; c). Students are required to produce the Analytical Film Review in English.</p> <p><u>Assignment 3 – Pair / Group Presentation of One Analytical Film Review</u></p> <p>Assignment 3 requires a pair / a small group of students to pick among themselves one Analytical Film Reviews and present them verbally. They are required to identify the theme (ILO a) and analyse its portrayal in the films (ILOs b &amp; c) while fulfilling the speaking requirement. It tests not only the students' knowledge of the subject content (ILOs a – c), but their ability to present their informed ideas verbally. All students are invited to join in-class discussions. Participation in these discussions ensures that students learn not only from instructor but also from their peers.</p>
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<b>Student Study Effort Expected</b>	Class contact:	
	▪ Lectures	26 Hrs.
	▪ Tutorials	13 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Viewing of films	26 Hrs.
	▪ Reading	26 Hrs.
	▪ Assignment Preparation	26 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	117 Hrs.

**Reading List  
and References**

**Required readings:**

Barry, P. (2002). *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press.

Bernheimer, C. (ed.). (1995). *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*. Baltimore and London: John Hopkins University Press.

**The following texts will be referenced:**

Bassnett, S. (1993). *Comparative Literature: A Critical Introduction*. UK: Blackwell Publishers Inc.

Behdad, A. & Thomas, D. (2011). *A Companion to Comparative Literature*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Bertens, H. (2008). *Literary Theory: The Basics*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). London and New York: Taylor & Francis.

Bates, C. (2008). *Masculinity, Gender and Identity in the English Renaissance Lyric*. Cambridge University Press.

Culler, J. (1997). *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Damrosch, D., Melas, N. & Buthelezi, M. (eds.). (2009). *The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature: From the European Enlightenment to the Global Present*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.

Freud, S. (2011). *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. USA: Sigmund Freud Copyrights Ltd.

Iser W. (2006). *How to Do Theory*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.

Kushner, E. (2001). *The Living Prism: Itineraries in Comparative Literature*. Montreal and Ithaca: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Leitch, V. B. (2010). *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.).

Makaryk, I. R. (ed). (1993). *Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Literary Theory: Approaches, Scholars, Terms*. Toronto and London: University of Toronto Press.

Mohan, C. (ed.). (1989). *Aspects of Comparative Literature: Current Approaches*. New Delhi: Reliance Publishing Ltd.

Nicholls, S. G., & Richard, B. V. (eds.). (1968). *Comparatists at Work: Studies in Comparative Literature*. Waltham, Mass.: Blaisdell Publishing Ltd.

Schulz, H. J., & Philipp, H. R. (1973). *Comparative Literature: The Early Years, An Anthology of Essays*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Tötösy de Z. S. (1998). *Comparative Literature: Theory, Methods, Application*. Amsterdam and Atlanta, GA: Rodopi.