GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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GE Programme Reform

◦ Align itself with the institution's broader goals

◦ In SYU's strategic planning 2016-2020, the first goal is to sustain our first mover advantage as the students' choice of private university in Hong Kong.

GE Programme Reform

○ According to Fuess and Mitchell's study (2011) , reform efforts have occurred repeatedly.

Old GE programme

◦ A distribution of courses across disciplines, mainly introductory courses: Introduction to Sociology, Introduction to Cultural Studies, Introductory Psychology, Introduction to Business Administration, etc.

◦ There is no oversight of the programme

"What should all undergraduate students – irrespective of their majors and career aspirations – know or be able to do upon graduation?"
(Fuess & Mitchell 2011, P.5)

Outcomes of GE Programmes

Graduates should acquire the capacity:

- to be creative,

- to communicate effectively,

- to think critically,

- to argue persuasively while understanding another point of view,

- to live ethically, and

- to be engaged civically

Source: White 2013, P.140

Features of SYU GE Programme

- ethos,

- culture,

- values,

- social responsibility, and

- graduate attributes

樹仁 Cultivation of Virtue

Core values:

- humanity,
- sympathy,
- reciprocity,
- responsibility,
- public-spiritedness and
- communality

Graduate Attributes

○ Articulate, open-minded critical thinkers with a passion for lifelong learning and self-improvement;

○ Committed to appropriate ethical behavior, based on a strong sense of social responsibility;

○ Well prepared to apply their specialist knowledge, skills and creativity in their chosen field of employment; and

○ Ready to apply their global outlook and understanding of Chinese cultural values to support the development of Hong Kong and China in the 21st century.

Structure of SYU GE Programme

Chinese Culture in the 21st Century

Communication and Literacy

Global Citizenship

Interdisciplinary Perspective

CHINESE CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Chinese Culture in the 21st Century

◦ First Year Chinese – Classical Confucian Works

◦ Make ancient Chinese philosophy and culture relevant to the 21st century.

Intended Learning Outcomes

○ relate ideas and concepts in ancient Chinese teachings to the contemporary world;

○ analyze and evaluate the economic, social and political use of Chinese culture in the 21st century;

○ synthesize ideas and concepts in Chinese culture with knowledge in different disciplines; and

○ construct his/her own way to apply ideas and concepts in Chinese culture in the everyday life.

Philosophical Kitchen哲學廚房

飲食文化是中國文化的一個重要組成部份，它反映了古代的哲學思想及民族智慧。本課程結合哲學思想和飲食、烹調文化兩方面：一、從古代的哲學思想入手，介紹氣、陰陽五行、中和、圓融等基本觀念，並論述五行、中和、淡樸和 "不時不食" 等觀念與飲食、烹調的關係；二、以《說文解字》食部字分析古人的飲食風俗；三、以《本草綱目》配以實物介紹穀、菜、果的性質特徵。內容覆蓋佐料、烹調方法、八大菜系、麵食文化等話題，使學生掌握中國哲學思想的基本觀念及中國飲食文化的知識。課程強調烹調實踐，講師在課堂上(十一周)示範烹調技藝，目的是培養學生生活技能及對烹調的興趣。課程還培養學生：關注自然；中和、樸實的人生態度；具備運用中國哲學思想反省生活的能力及養成環保飲食意識。

Philosophical Kitchen哲學廚房

| 教與學活動　Teaching & Learning Activities (TLAs)	
TLA1	講授課程內容
TLA2	學習佐料特點、製作醬汁
TLA3	逛街市實地學習
TLA4	製作肉丸、涼菜
TLA5	烹調示範 (15款菜餚、熱湯)

Chinese Medicine: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

◦ This course introduces the philosophical concepts and efficacy of Chinese medicine. Students will have an opportunity to learn food therapy, herbs, tea therapy, Tai-chi, massage, Qigong and acupuncture for improving one's health condition and preventing disease. Some basic philosophical concepts such as "harmony of man and nature", "Yin and Yang", "five elements" and "Qi and Blood", will be explained in detail to explain the relationship between the efficacy of Chinese medicine and physical health.
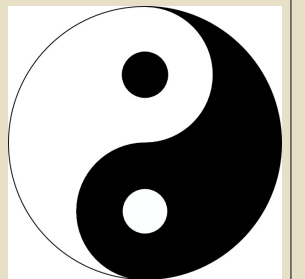
Chinese Medicine: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)	
TLA1: Lectures	Lectures will focus on explanation of main concepts and philosophy of Chinese medicine and demonstrate its efficacy on health promotion and disease prevention.
TLA2 Tutorials	Class demonstrations of massage, tea and herbal preparation
TLA3: Field trips	Field trips to Chinese herbs markets, Tai-chi class and Chinese medicated diet restaurant.
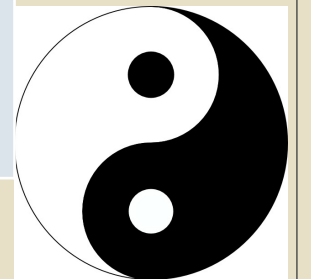
Other topics

- Confucianism and Daoism in the 21st Century
- Confucianism and management science
- Daoism and ecology
- Daoism and health
- Chinese heritage and the contemporary world
- *Taichi* and Chinese heritage
- *Kungfu* and Chinese philosophy

Communication and Literacy

- According to the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), a literate person in the 21st century global society must be able to:

- develop proficiency and fluency with the tools of technology;

- build intentional cross-cultural connections and relationships with others so to pose and solve problems collaboratively and strengthen independent thought;

- design and share information for global communities to meet a variety of purposes;

- manage, analyze, and synthesize multiple streams of simultaneous information;

- create, critique, analyze, and evaluate multimedia texts;

- attend to the ethical responsibilities required by these complex environments.

Intended Learning Outcomes

- make informed value judgment by applying critical and analytical skills;

- demonstrate their literacy in mass media;

- examine and evaluate the significance of digital media in everyday life

- critique cultural aspects of technology and science; and

- generate ideas on how to apply ICT in areas such as learning, research and civic education.

Daily Life in Numbers

We live so close to numbers and figures that sometimes we do not notice how they shape our world. It is obvious that they play significant roles in land surveying, construction and business activities, but it is also worth noting that a certain kind of "mathematical thinking" on numbers and figures functions when we tune a musical instrument, draw a picture or even make a choice in religion. This course aims to provide interesting examples to show students how well-known mathematical concepts, such as "rational numbers," "binary system" and "expected probability," induce the cult of scientific facts and figures. We will also discuss how the worship of numerical representation and computation changes our life.

Manga and the Modern World

◦ This course is founded on the idea that images and themes found in highly acclaimed *Manga* provide a particularly effective springboard for discussion and clarification of otherwise complex and abstract concepts. By the end of the course students will have acquired analytical and reflexive skills that will enable them to apply basic concepts drawn from philosophical, sociological and cultural theories both to the selected readings and their everyday lives.

Other topics

- cultural aspect of technology
- digital media in everyday life
- new digital media and learning
- media literacy
- mass media culture
- potential of video games for civic education
- technoscience culture

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Global Citizenship

◦ By providing students with knowledge in gender studies, religion and spirituality, environmental ethics, human and animal ethics, psychology, self-development, etc., this area aims to enhance students' quality of life, facilitate them to develop a positive value of life, and to achieve a broad understanding of human and nature. Student are then guided to appreciate the diversity in culture and foster a global consciousness.

Global Citizenship

◦ The main objective of this area is to nurture a sense of responsibility in students: responsibility to oneself and other beings, to the society, and to the universe as a whole, by providing them an education of ethics of care for the world.

Intended Learning Outcomes

- make informed value judgment by applying critical and analytical skills;

- demonstrate their literacy in mass media;

- examine and evaluate the significance of digital media in everyday life

- critique cultural aspects of technology and science; and

- generate ideas on how to apply ICT in areas such as learning, research and civic education.

Being Human: Human Rights and Culture

◦ The course introduces students to a basic understanding of human rights and modern conceptions of the person through exploration of cultural texts, including short fiction, film, and essays. Students will explore the idea that culture can offer valuable perspectives on the relationship between the ideals and realities of human rights in different historical and cultural contexts. By the end of the course, students should be able to conceive of human rights as a discourse and understand that it is complex, variable, and open to challenge.

Gender/Sexuality in Literature and Films

◦ This course is designed to introduce students to the issues of gender and sexuality within modern films and literature. It will provide a comprehensive overview of socio-cultural factors that have shaped literary and cinematic representations of gender and sexuality. Through the discussion of a number of literary texts and movies, the course aims to stimulate philosophical thinking on sexuality and human difference, examine forces of bias, and ultimately provoke thought about the relationship among gender, films and literature, and culture.

Other topics

◦ Stress management

◦ Psychology of positive living

◦ Critical thinking

◦ Globalization and ethics

◦ Green living and spirituality

◦ Religion and modern world

◦ Philosophy through films

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

Interdisciplinary is an approach to answering questions, solving problems and addressing contemporary social issues by synthesizing knowledge from multiple disciplines. Interdisciplinary Studies has become popular in local and overseas tertiary institutions and is considered to be a new paradigm for creating knowledge in the 21st century. The idea of interdisciplinarity would lead students to view the world as an integrated whole and learn to solve a problem with knowledges acquired from different disciplines.

Intended Learning Outcomes

- investigate various sides of an issue;

- examine and evaluate ideas taken for granted;

- analyse and critique a problem from multiple perspectives;

- develop ethical sensitivity; and

- synthesize ideas/ concepts from different disciplines.

Quantum Physics, Religion and Faith

◦ This course aims to explore the convergence of quantum physics and religions (Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity) on the issue of creation of the cosmos, the nature of matter and reality, and how this vision of reality according to quantum physics reenchant the cosmos and enable humanity to feel at home in the universe again.

Accent and Identity in Films

◦ This course aims to introduce different varieties and accents of English in relation to identity through film analysis. Stereotypical portrayal of characters including gender, social class, ethnicity, religion etc. based on various accents and language use will be discussed to help students understand how the media reinforce audience's perception of people's identity in the society.

Environment and Society

○ In order to present a broad view of environment, this general education course will examine the social, economic, and the political aspects of environmental issues, and survey different perspectives in studying the dynamics between environment and society. By reviewing major empirical studies, it also aims at fostering students' understanding as to how institutions can alter the trajectories of environmental degradation and protection. It will evaluate a variety of activities initiated by consumers, industry, state, and civil society which can collectively contribute to the sustainable development of our society.

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Other topics

- pop science and humanities
- society and environment
- humanities in the 21st century
- gender issues in different disciplines
- sports and media
- poetry and science
- law and culture
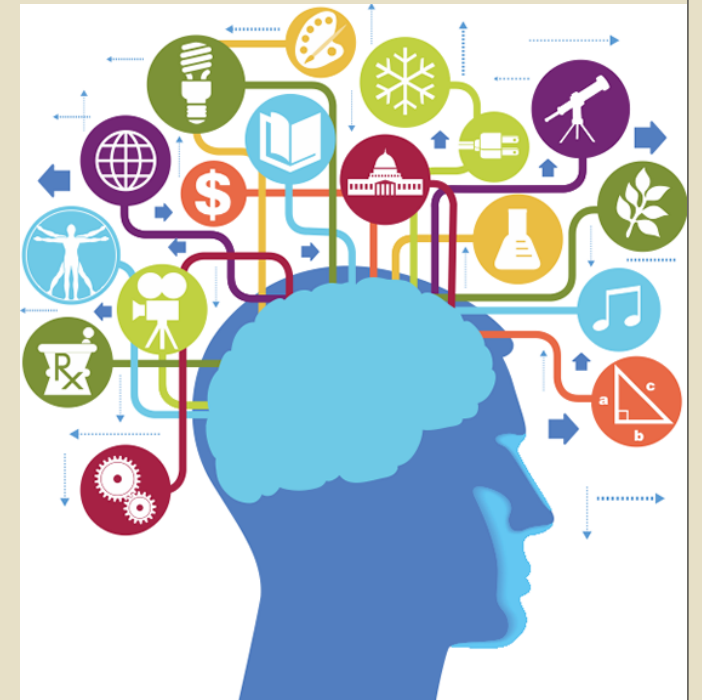
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