

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: All Full-time Undergraduate Programmes
Programme QF Level	: 5
Course Title	: Travellers and Other Cultures: Literature and History
Course Code	: GEF1019
Department	: Department of Literature and Cultural Studies (LCS)
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: English
Course Level	: 1

Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. Course Synopsis

Drawing on insights from the disciplines of literature, cultural studies, and history, this course explores the writings of travellers. The class will discuss how travellers present what is strange, and how a foreigner positions him- or herself in a foreign landscape or a foreign culture. There are therefore two aspects to this course: the experience of the foreign, and ways people use to present the foreign in writing. For that reason, the ideas of "culture" and "narrative" will be central to this course. "Culture" is viewed in terms of the visible (food, weddings, architecture) and the nonvisible (the values that stand behind what can be seen.) Historical and cultural backgrounds relevant to the selected topics will be included to help illustrate notions of cultural singularity and difference. Students will have the opportunity to interview guests about their own countries of origin, or about countries where guests have lived. They will read a travel book in English, write about it, and write about their own experience of intercultural contact. Students can expect to see progress in their writing skills, as the course will include writing workshops and consultations.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CILO₁ In reading, connect different parts of a text together, drawing valid conclusions from what is observed;
- CILO₂ Discover forms of narrative and the way those forms are used in travel books ;
- CILO₃ Show an understanding of cultural displacement as a social and psychological phenomenon; and
- CILO₄ Show an understanding of the concept of culture;
- CILO₅ Show an ability to synthesize all of the above.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
● Analysis of short extracts in class, with discussion, and a travel book in English for essay 1.	CILO ₁ , CILO ₅	Lectures, discussion, sometimes related to class interviews of guests. Guidance on the process of writing from evidence.
● Theoretical ideas on narrative and analysis of texts.	CILO ₂ , CILO ₅	Lecture, group work, relating these ideas to texts.
● Representation of intercultural interaction (e.g. cultural difference and cultural displacement) in readings.	CILO ₃	Lecture, group work.

● Lectures, group discussions, films, follow-up on points made by guest speakers.	<i>CILO</i> ₄ (<i>etc.</i>)	Lecture, group work, films.
---	---	-----------------------------

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting	CILOs
(a) Essay about your travel book, focusing on the author's representation of intercultural experience (around 1,500 words).	50%	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3,4,5}
(b) Produce a vignette, a short piece of writing for an online forum telling the story of an intercultural encounter (250 words), and comment on someone else's vignette (50 words).	10%	<i>CILO</i> _{2,3,4,5}
(c) Essay on your own experience of another culture, or, if you have none, a plan for a foreign trip with reflection on cultural issues. (around 1,200 words).	40%	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3,4,5} (<i>etc.</i>)

5. Required Text(s)

Nil

6. Recommended Readings

Africa

Dinesen, Isak (Blixen, Karen). (1985). *Out of Africa*. London: Penguin.

Theroux, Paul. (2002). *Dark Star Safari : Overland from Cairo to Cape Town*. London: Hamish Hamilton.

Americas, other than USA

Chong, Denise. (1995). *The Concubine's Children*. New York: Viking. (Canada).

Wheeler, Sara. (1995). *Travels in a Thin Country: A Journey through Chile*. London: Abacus.

Asia (General)

Naipaul, V.S. (1982). *Among the Believers: An Islamic Journey*. London: Penguin.

Shah, Sirdar Iqbal Ali. (1983). *The Golden Caravan*. London: Octagon.

Tolstoy, Alexandra. (2003). *The Last Secrets of the Silk Road*. London: Profile.

East Asia, other than China

Booth, Alan. (1995). *Looking for the Lost: Journeys through a Vanishing Japan*. New York: Kodansha International.

Coffey, Maria. (1996). *Three moons in Vietnam : a haphazard journey by boat and bicycle*. London: Little, Brown.

Hassan, Ihab Habib. (1996). *Between the Eagle and the Sun: Traces of Japan*. Tuscaloosa

(USA): University of Alabama Press.

Livingston, Carol. (1997). *Gecko Tails: A Journey through Cambodia*. London: Phoenix.
Naff, Clayton. (1994). *About Face: How I Stumbled on Japan's Social Revolution*. New York: Kodansha International.

Australia

Bryson, Bill. (2000). *In a sunburned country*. New York: Broadway Books.

China

Brackenbury, Wade. (1997). *Yak Butter and Black Tea: A Journey into Forbidden China*. Chapel Hill (USA): Algonquin.
Brown, Liam D'arcy. (2003). *Green Dragon, Sombre Warrior: A Journey around China's Symbolic Frontiers*. London: Murray.
Goullart, Peter. (2002). *Forgotten Kingdom*. London: Murray.
Hadfield, Charles and Jill. (1986). *Watching the Dragon: Letters from China, 1983-1985*. London: Impact.
Hessler, Peter. (2006). *Oracle Bones: A Journey Between China's Past and Present*. New York: HarperCollins.
Hessler, Peter. (2001). *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*. London: Murray.
Lincoln, Kenneth. (1999). *A Writer's China: Bridges East and West*. Santa Barbara (USA): Capra.
Lloyd, Sarah. (1988). *Chinese Characters: A Journey through China*. London: Flamingo/Fontana.
Schultz, Judy. (1995). *Looking for China: Reflections on a Silk Road*. Red Deer (Canada): Red Deer College Press.
Shapiro, Sidney. (1999). *I Chose China: Metamorphosis of a Country and a Man*. New York: Hippocrene.
Terzani, Angela. (1988). *Chinese Days*. Hong Kong: Odyssey, 1988.
Theroux, Paul. (1989). *Riding the Iron Rooster: By Train through China*. London: Penguin.
Thubron, Colin. (1988). *Behind the Wall: A Journey Through China*. London: Penguin.
Wood, Frances. (2000). *Hand Grenade Practice in Peking: My Part in the Cultural Revolution*. London: Murray.

China (Hong Kong)

Roberts, Denys. (2006). *Another Disaster: Hong Kong Sketches*. London: Radcliffe.

China (Tibet)

Abbotts, Adrian. (1997). *Naked Spirits: A Journey into Occupied Tibet*. Edinburgh (Scotland): Canongate.
Allen, Chalres. (2000). *The Search for Shangri-La: A Journey into Tibetan History*. London: Abacus.
Ford, Robert. (1990). *Captured in Tibet*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
Maraini, Fosco. (2000). *Secret Tibet*. London: Harvill.

Europe

Bryson, Bill. (1992). *Neither Here nor There : Travels in Europe*. London: Secker & Warburg.
Carver, Robert. (1999). *The Accursed Mountains: Journeys in Albania*. London: Flamingo.

Kark, Austen. (1985). *Attic in Greece*. London: Warner.
Levi, Carlo. (1982). *Christ Stopped at Eboli*. London: Penguin. (Italy).
Newby, Eric. (1988). *Round Ireland in Low Gear*. London: Picador.
Orwell, George. (1989). *Down and Out in Paris and London*. London: Penguin.
Orwell, George. (1989). *Homage to Catalonia*. London: Penguin. (Spain).

India

Naipaul, V.S. (1979). *India, A Wounded Civilisation*. London: Penguin.
Newby, Eric. (1983). *Slowly Down the Ganges*. London: Pan.

Middle East

Young, D. (2010). *The art of recklessness: poetry as assertive force and contradiction*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Graywolf Press.
Abdullah, Morag Murray. (1990). *My Khyber Marriage: Experiences of a Scotswoman as the Wife of a Pathan Chieftan's Son*. London: Octagon. (Afghanistan).
Abdullah, Morag Murray. (1993). *Valley of the Giant Buddhas: Memoirs and Travels*. London: Octagon. (Afghanistan).
Feiler, Bruce S. (2005). *Where God Was Born: A Journey by Land to the Roots of Religion*. New York: Morrow. (Israel, Palestinian Territories and surrounding areas).
Grant, John. (1992). *Travels in the Unknown East*. London: Octagon.
Shadid, Anthony. (2006). *Night Draws Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War*. New York: Picador.
Shah, Sirdar Ikbali Ali. (1992). *Alone in Arabian Nights*. London: Octagon.
Stark, Freya. (2001). *The Southern Gates of Arabia: A Journey in the Hadhramaut*. New York: Modern Library. (Arabia: reprint of an older book).
Stark, Freya. (2001). *The Valley of the Assassins and Other Persian Travels*. New York: Modern Library. (Iran: a reprint of an older book).
Young, Gavin. (1989). *Return to the Marshes*. London: Penguin. (Iraq).

Philippines

Garland, Alex. (2000). *The Tesseract* (a novel). Harmondsworth, UK: Riverhead-Penguin.

Russia

Newby, Eric. (1978). *The Big Red Train Ride*. London : Picador-Pan.
Smith, Hedrick. (1976). *The Russians*. New York: Ballantyne.
Smith, Hedrick. (1991). *The New Russians*. New York: Avon.
Thubron, Colin. (2000). *In Siberia*. London: Penguin.

USA

Bryson, Bill. (2000). *I'm a Stranger Here Myself : Notes on Returning to America after Twenty Years Away* New York : Broadway Books.
Bryson, Bill. (1992). *The Lost Continent : Travels in Small Town America*. London: Secker & Warburg.
Bryson, Bill. (1997). *A walk in the woods*. London: Doubleday.
Dickens, Charles. (2000). *American Notes*. London: Penguin.
McCourt, Frank. (2000). *'Tis*. London: Flamingo.
Naipaul, V.S.(1990). *A Turn in the South*. London: Penguin.
Raban, Jonathan. (1991). *Hunting Mister Heartbr*.

7. Related Web Resources

The Best Travel Stories on the Internet - Travel Writing:

<http://www.worldhum.com/>

Literary Travel Writing:

<http://nowheremag.com/>

Roads & Kingdoms: Journalism and travel, together at last:

<http://roadsandkingdoms.com/>

The Voyageur:

<http://thevoyageur.net/>

How to Write a Travel Journal That's Worth Reading:

<http://www.vagabondish.com/how-to-tips-writing-travel-journal/>

8. Related Journals

Cold Noon: Travel Poetics

Journeys: The International Journal of Travel Writing

9. Academic Honesty

The University adopts a zero tolerance policy to plagiarism. For the University's policy on plagiarism, please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity with Specific Reference to the Avoidance of Plagiarism by Students* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/modules/downloads/visit.php?cid=9&lid=89>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others

Nil

4 May 2022