THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title: Master of Social Sciences in Global Hong Kong Studies
Programme QF Level: 6
Course Title: Globalization and World Religions
Course Code: SSC6271
Department: Social Sciences
Credit Points: 3
Contact Hours: 39
Pre-requisite(s): Nil
Medium of Instruction: English
Course Level: 6

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

This course will guide students understanding the cultural dimension of globalization, in particular the resurgence of different world religions and other major cultural traditions in the age of globalization. This course will provide and explain students the theoretical foundations of sociology of religion from modernization to globalization. Then, the course explores some empirical case-studies and examples of the resurgence of religion and cultural traditions in different facets of global human condition, ranging from the personal search of identity and meaning of life, national foreign policy as well as the international security and conflict resolution. In general, this course will examine how different world religions and cultural traditions, Jewish, Christian, Islamic, Confucian and Daoist, Hindu and Buddhist traditions, approach and in response to globalization. Specifically, this course will discuss how religions and cultural traditions shape the worldviews, values and ethical consideration of the faithful towards public disputes over right-wing populism, same-sex marriage, human cloning, ethno-nationalism, genocide, refugee issues, and inter-religious relation, etc. In discussing the contested issues surrounded the globalized religions, this course also discussed how those global issues expressed in local contexts or manifested among the religious groups in Hong Kong. While many worry religion plays a dominant role of widening the ‘clash of civilizations’ and conflicts, this course also discusses the neutrality of religion, that it has also been playing positive force in individual volunteering, philanthropy, charity and pursuing of world peace.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

CILO₁ provide a theoretical overview of sociology of religion from modernization to globalization;

CILO₂ explore globalization from the perspectives of few major world religions and cultural traditions, and how they approach globalization in personal pursuit, national politics and global public good;

CILO₃ examine how diverse religious and cultural traditions shape the worldviews of believers in engaging public debates in selected contemporary topics;

CILO₄ differentiate the driving force of religion that it can nurture positive volunteering work in pursuing world peace and religious fundamentalist movement leading to global violence.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

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<tr>
<th>Course Content</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
<th>Suggested Teaching &amp; Learning Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theories of sociology of religion from modernization theories to globalization</td>
<td>CILO₁,₂</td>
<td>Lectures, literature review, discussion and group presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explorations of various world religions and major cultural traditions</td>
<td>CILO₂,₄</td>
<td>Lectures, Field-visits</td>
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### 4. Assessment

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<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>CILO</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(a) Response Papers and In-Class Tests:</strong> Each week, students will be required to read assigned readings and participate discussion at lecture. After close reading on the assigned material, students can submit any 3 out of 5 weekly written papers (with no more than 500 words) by paraphrasing the main idea or the argument(s) of the reading, providing critical reflection, questions and comments in response to the reading. Based on lecture and reading material, two in-class tests will be conducted.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>CILO1,2,3,4</td>
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<td><strong>(b) Group Presentation:</strong> A group of students will conduct a research topic, analyzing a selected social aspect of globalization, and provide an oral presentation.</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>CILO1,2,3,4</td>
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<td><strong>(c) Individual Research Paper:</strong> Students are required to submit an individual paper or a case-study report that presents an analysis the selected issues from multiple perspectives with the emphasis on the dialectic relationships between globalization and social dimension, in particular a selected world religion with a concrete case-study. The topic can be developed from weekly assigned readings and the refined research question follows by student’ in-depth research and individual contributions. Other topics related to globalization are welcomed, but students should first discuss the idea of the topic with the lecturer (3,000 words).</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>CILO1,2,3,4</td>
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### 5. Required Text(s)

Nil
6. **Recommended Readings**


7. Related Web Resources
Nil

8. Related Journals
Nil

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

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