

## 4.2.2 Description of courses

### Chinese

#### HC7101 Graduate Seminar

This course explores themes in Chinese studies in the areas of Chinese culture, literature, language, history, philosophy and/or arts. The course comprises of a series of seminar presentations and discussions on selected topics or topics of special interest to the students. Topics chosen will vary from year to year, depending on student enrollment and the availability of guest speakers. Students who complete this course will gain familiarity with academic discourse in different subject areas. The course will be conducted in Chinese but English reading materials may be included. Students are required to complete a term paper and in class oral presentation. Written project involves either an analysis or a critical review on reading materials or on particular aspect of student's research interest.

#### HC7001 Special Topics in Selected Historical Personages of Singapore & Malaysia

In-depth study in one or two of important historical figures, such as Lim Boon Keng, Song Ong Siang, Wu Lien Teh, Tan Kah Kee, Tan Lark Sye and Tan Cheng Lock. Focus is on the historical and social background of the person under study, his cultural and political identity, his personal achievements and contributions, as well as the interaction between the individual actor and the larger environment.

#### HC7002 Special Topics in the Singapore Chinese Intellectual

A detailed study of selected topics in the Singapore Chinese intellectual. Comparison and contrast of various archetypes and representatives. Analysis of how they contradicted and cooperated with each other. Examination of the roles of each archetype in the development of history.

#### HC7003 Special Topics in Chinese Overseas and Their Relations with China

Over different periods of time, many towns and villages in China have evolved, socially and economically, as a result of changing relations with the Chinese working and living outside China. This course explores specifically the localities with past or present connections with Chinese diaspora, collectively and fashionably labeled as *qiaoxiang* areas. The aim is twofold. The first is to shed light on the changing landscape of these localities amidst the political and economic developments in China. The second is to identify the pattern and content of the relations Chinese diaspora have with their native and ancestral homelands in China.

Course evaluation: There will be no exam for this course. Final course grade will be based on the evaluation of writing assignments / oral presentation / research paper.

#### HC7004 Special Topics in Chinese Oral Literature

Studies of the Chinese Oral Tradition. Selected topics such as the following may be examined: Oral Theories, its application and implication in Chinese oral literature; Historical Development and Transmission; Continuity and Authenticity; Orality and Literacy; Oral-derived Texts and literary features; Compositional Methods. Different genres such as the Transformation Texts Singing Narrative, Drum Songs Medleys, and Precious Scrolls will be examined.

#### HC7005 Special Topics in Pre-Modern Chinese Literature

This course analyses topically the important writers and works in pre-modern Chinese Literature (from Pre-Qin period to the Qing dynasty). Genres include poetry, prose, fiction and drama. Aspects of Chinese culture will be noted through readings.

#### HC7006 Special Topics in Modern/Contemporary Chinese Literature

In-depth study of selected modern/contemporary authors. Selected topics such as the following may be examined: Comparative Literary Criticism on selected works; Critical Textual Analysis; Transition and Transformation from Modern to Contemporary; Impact of the Cultural Revolution; Modernity and Post-Modernity.

#### HC7007 Study of Gao Xingjian

The first Chinese-language writer to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2000, Gao Xingjian is a multi-faceted individual. This course will study the man, his dramatic works, theatrical productions, novels and short stories, theoretical concepts and intellectual thoughts. The study of Gao Xingjian will be carried out with cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural approaches, involving in-depth analysis of Gao's works with

literary and performance theories, as well as treating Gao as a significant cultural phenomenon in the context of post-Mao China and transcultural exchanges.

**HC7008 Special Topics in Contrastive Language Analysis**

Study of topics such as contrastive studies in language such as contrastive rhetoric, contrastive lexicology, contrastive pragmatics, contrastive semantics, contrastive syntax, contrastive pedagogy, compiling and exploiting bilingual/multilingual computerised corpora, bilingual corpora and automatic/computer-aided translation.

**HC7009 Modern Linguistics Theories in their Applications in the Study of the Chinese Language**

Study of important linguistic theories and their relevance in the Chinese Language. The course will trace the development of linguistic theories with respect to the Chinese Language since late 19th century, examine how these theories are being adapted to describe and explain phenomenon of the Chinese Language, reviewing the unresolved issues thus arose and exploring future research directions.

**HC7010 Special Topics in Pre-Modern Chinese**

Study of selected topics in the study of Pre-modern Chinese covering aspects such as synchronic and diachronic syntax, lexicology, semantic and phonology; discourse; rhetoric and other functionalist approaches in selected texts, examining their relevance to modern Chinese.

**HC7011 The End of the Chinese Middle Ages**

This course seeks to explore the drastic and all-embracing changes that Chinese society has undergone from the eighth to the thirteenth century. We will discuss a wide range of topics including elite transformation, state examinations, social status, family strategies, literature, philosophy, ritual, and religion. The goal is to develop a deeper understanding of medieval and pre-modern China. Readings are mainly modern research in Chinese and English.

Course evaluation: There will be no exam for this course. Final course grade will be based on the evaluation of short essays / oral presentation / research paper.

**HC7012 Research and Methodology**

This course explores different themes, research and methodology in the areas of Chinese culture, literature, language, history, and philosophy. The course comprises of a series of seminar presentations and discussions on selected topics or topics of special interest to the students. Topics chosen will vary from year to year, depending on student enrollment and the research areas of the scholars conducting the class. Students who complete this subject will gain familiarity with different research methods and experience diverse academic discourse in different subject areas. The course will be conducted in Chinese but English reading materials may be included.

**HC 7888 Directed Reading**

In this course students read extensively in their area of interest under the direction of a faculty member, most likely the supervisor. This course is taken by graduate students on a subject which is not otherwise offered as a course in the MA/PhD program courses in a given semester, but which accords with a member of the academic staff's research interests. The courses offer a great flexibility in adapting to the individual academic interests of the student the research interests of the teacher. Students wishing to take this course should obtain prior agreement of the teacher concerned and his/her Head of Division.

Course evaluation: Assessment is by course-work only. That is either (a) one 8,000 - 10,000 word essay delivered at the end of the semester, or (b) a series of two or more essays together amounting to 8,000 - 10,000 words produced over the period of one academic semester.

**English**

HL7101 Graduate Seminar in the History of Literary Theory

HL7102 Graduate Seminar in Critical Theory

HL7103 Graduate Seminar in Drama

HL7104 Graduate Seminar in Film

HL7105 Graduate Studies in Renaissance Studies

HL7106 Graduate Seminar in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature and Culture

HL7107 Graduate Seminar in Romanticism

HL7108 Graduate Seminar in Victorian Literature and Culture

HL7109 Graduate Seminar in Modernism

HL7110 Graduate Seminar in Contemporary Literature and Culture

HL7111 Graduate Seminar in American Literature and Culture

HL7112 Graduate Seminar in Singaporean Literature and Culture

HL7113 Graduate Seminar in Postcolonial Literature and Theory

HL7114 Graduate Seminar in Cultural Studies

HL7888 Directed Study in Literature

HL7901 Graduate Seminar on Special Topic

## **Economics**

### **HE 9001 Mathematical Economics**

In this course, participants will be introduced to solution methods for systems of linear and non-linear equations, optimisation, approximation, numerical integration and differentiation, solution methods for differential equations, dynamic programming, and optimal control.

### **HE 9002 Econometrics I**

This course provides an extensive discussion of estimation and inference issues. It covers classical linear and structural equation models, maximum likelihood and minimum distance (generalised method-of-moments) estimation, inference (testing) for a variety of applications. Students are expected to complete problem sets and an empirical project involving data analysis. The course also devotes substantial attention to attaining competence in programming with an advanced statistical package such as GAUSS.

### **HE 9003 Econometrics II**

This course aims to illustrate some ways in which econometric methods may be employed in empirical research. It consists of illustrative examples drawn from published research papers and discussions of modern applied econometric techniques. These may include panel data and discrete dependent variable models, nonparametric and semiparametric regression models, and simulation estimators. The prerequisite for this course is Econometrics I or an approved equivalent.

### **HE 9004 Computational Econometrics**

This course provides graduate-level training in the use of numerical methods in economics. These methods have broad relevance to all areas of social science research. Using mainframe computing software, the course discusses the application of computational techniques to model building and specification testing, and the handling of specific problems such as unit roots, time varying volatility, autoregressive conditional heteroskedastic models, and regime switching models.

### **HE 9101 Seminar in Microeconomics**

This course provides a solid foundation in microeconomics at the graduate level. The unifying theme of the seminar is the theory of maximising behaviour, with emphasis on how basic principles of modern microeconomics play a role in business decision-making. The course begins with an analysis of supply and demand and utility maximisation by the consumer, followed by an examination of firms' pricing and output decisions in both competitive and monopolistic settings. It concludes by considering the effect of market structure on prices, production, and profit.

**HE 9102 Seminar in Macroeconomics**

This course provides a graduate level introduction to nonstochastic and stochastic macroeconomics. The framework used will range from the Keynesian model to the Philips Curve. The aim is to develop an understanding of how key macroeconomic variables such as GDP, employment, interest rates, exchange rates and inflation, are jointly determined over periods of time that correspond to the business cycle. Of particular interest will be the structuring of optimal monetary and fiscal policies and the role of interest rates in open economies.

**HE 9103 Seminar in Monetary Economics**

This course deals with monetary aspects of macroeconomics, placing particular emphasis on the role of inside money (credit) and the crucial role of information in the functioning of modern economies. The course will cover topics including the following: the role of national debt and intergenerational allocation, the demand & supply of money, static models, dynamic models, inflation, rational expectations, policy effectiveness, old and new Philips curves, price stickiness, monetary versus real business cycles, rules versus discretion, and open economy monetary analysis.

**HE 9104 Seminar in Development Economics**

This course provides in-depth coverage of topics in development economics for graduate students. We explore the definition and measurement of economic growth and development. We also examine competing development theories and characteristics of economic growth. We then proceed to various specific issues in the economics of developing countries, such as the relationship between population growth and economic development and the debate on export promotion versus import substitution. A large number of additional readings will deepen and broaden the student's understanding of the subject.

**HE 9105 Seminar in International Economics**

This course covers the theory of international economics including the theory of comparative advantage, tariffs, capital movements, balance-of-payment adjustments and exchange rates. The theory is related to current issues in international economics including trade policies, balance of payment adjustments, and other current problems of the world economy. The aim is to provide participants with a background for understanding the effect of the international economic environment on business decisions and economic policy making.

**HE 9201 Contemporary Issues in Economics**

This course presents a selection of advanced topics in economics with emphasis on firm, management or industrial strategy. Other possible topics include competitive interactions among firms, dynamic modelling in macroeconomics, and productivity analysis.

**Psychology**

**HP7001 Advanced Research Design and Data Analysis**

The course is designed to acquaint researchers with the principles of experimental design, basic experimental designs used in social science research including between-subjects, within-subjects/repeated-measures, mixed (split-plot) and nested designs. The core statistical tool to be discussed is General Linear Models with emphasis on model comparison approach to analyse data collected from various experimental designs.

**HP7101 Pro-seminar in Human Development**

This subject provides the opportunity for the students who will undertake research projects in human development to review the basic theories and principles of human development and to read and critically analyse contemporary research articles in human development. The selection of the topics to discuss will take into consideration the research interests and plans of the students.

**HP 7102 Pro-seminar in Industrial and Organisational Psychology**

The pro-seminar in industrial and organisational psychology provides a basic review of theories and research in industrial and organisational psychology. Students will be exposed to classic studies in industrial and organisational psychology. Depending on the specific interests and research plans of the students, up-to-date research articles will be introduced and critically analysed.

**HP7103 Pro-seminar in Social Psychology**

The course provides students with an advanced survey on major theories and research in social psychology. Discussion covers both classics and contemporary hot topics in areas such as attitudes, the self, motivation and goals, emotions, social cognition, and intergroup processes. Students participate in critiques and presentations of the readings and develop their own social psychological research towards the end of the course.

**HP7104 Pro-seminar in Personality Psychology**

The course provides students with an advanced survey on major personality theories of adulthood, their major propositions, and their implications for describing, explaining, and predicting human behavior in context.

**HP7105 Pro-seminar in Cultural Psychology**

This course surveys theories and research on the co-constitution of culture and person. Discussion focuses on both how culture is influenced by collective psychological processes such as the creation of shared reality and social representations, and how individual psychological processes such as social perception, emotion, and the self are influenced by the cultural context. Through the critical analyses of empirical cultural research, students develop their own research proposal in cultural psychology.

**HP7106 Pro-seminar in Asian Psychology**

This course surveys and analyses contemporary psychological theories and empirical research in Asian populations. The objective of the pro-seminar is for the student to appreciate the person x culture interface and to gain insight into the research issues involved in conducting research in the non-Western cultural communities. Conceptualisation and operationalisation of culture both as a research variable and the context in which human behaviors take place will be discussed. Likewise, culture specific Conceptualisations and operationalisation of various psychological construct will also be discussed. Focus will be on the major cultural groups represented in Singapore: Chinese, Malays and Indians.

**HP7107 Pro-seminar in Biological Psychology**

This course surveys the board areas of biological bases of behavior including sensation and perception, sleeping and dreaming, aggression, biological rhythms, animal models of dementia, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

**HP7108 Pro-seminar in Cognitive Psychology**

Cognitive psychology is the study of how we plan and carry out everyday tasks while interpreting and responding to the constant input of sensory stimulation present in the world. The subject addresses both bottom-up (sensation driven), and top-down (internally driven) processing. The seminar will begin with perception in the visual and auditory domains, and then move to higher levels of processing including, object recognition, attention, memory, executive processing, language, learning, reasoning, social cognition, and an overview of the development of cognition across life span. Modern research has focused on finding the neural basis of cognition, and this seminar will reflect this focus. The objectives of the class are to (1) to learn the critical importance of the cognitive approach to studying psychology, (2) to study brain-behavior connections, and (3) to inform about the state-of-the art research in cognitive psychology. Students are expected to be able to review critically currently psychological findings of cognitive psychology, and more importantly, to be able to design and conduct cognitive psychology research.

**HP7215 Family and Human Relationships**

There is an increasing awareness that the individual's behavior takes place in the context of others. Individual behaviors develop within the context of interpersonal relationships and human organisations such as the family. Family and Human Relationships introduces the students to the major theories and empirical studies in the structure and processes of the family and interpersonal relationships. Students are expected to read the theories, significant empirical findings and the emerging theoretical and methodological perspectives in family and relationships studies.

**HP7889 Directed Reading**

One important element of graduate research training is a student's familiarization with classic and contemporary literature in the student's field of specialisation. This would provide a solid theoretical and conceptual basis needed for advanced empirical scientific enquiry. This familiarization not only depends on student's reading of relevant topics in breadth and in depth, but also relies on the exchange of critical

thoughts between the student and a faculty member who specialises in the specific area. In this course, students are expected to read widely and in depth under the guidance of a faculty supervisor.

#### **HP7888 Independent Study**

The Independent Study Module provides the student an opportunity to engage in independent psychological research related to the proposed thesis. The content and activities of each Independent Study Module is to be determined by the student and his or her supervisor with approval by the Head of the Division.

### **Sociology**

#### **HS 7001 Classical Sociological Theory and Research**

This course examines the theoretical foundations and research traditions of sociology as a discipline. In particular, the contributions of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber are discussed against the backdrop of the social and intellectual contexts of their times. The course considers these and other classical theorists' continuing relevance for the analysis of social change and the development of social theory. Examples of course themes include:

- Social theory and the antecedents of disciplinary sociology
- The social theory of Karl Marx
- The social theory of Emile Durkheim
- The social theory of Max Weber
- Other contributions to classical sociological theory

Students will take this course in their first semester.

#### **HS 7002 Contemporary Sociological Theory and Research**

Legacies of classical theory are critically reviewed in light of 20th century developments. New schools of social theory are examined. The syllabus centers on contributions of the following contemporary sociological theorists. Examples of course themes include:

- Social Theory in the 20th century and beyond
- The Social Theory and Research of Major Theorists:  
e.g. Michel Foucault, Jürgen Habermas, Pierre Bourdieu

Problems in contemporary social theory: students will consider contributions of other theorists from a secondary list according to the discretion of the faculty.

#### **HS7003 Theory and Method in Social Research**

The syllabus for this course will be determined by the individual faculty subject to the approval of the Division Head. It will focus on theoretical methods in social research; that is, the relationship between theory and data in the process of doing sociological research. (Note: Some students may be required to take HS9910 in addition to or instead of this course. Course themes include:

- Philosophy of Social Science
- The Logic of Social Research
- Applications of Social Research
- Research Design and Research Methods

#### **HS7101 Graduate Seminar: Economy and Society**

'Economic man' is not an isolated individual but is embedded in networks of social relations. This course examines social aspects of economic life historically and in the contemporary context. Course themes include:

- Traditions in the sociology of economic change
- Institutions and the economy
- Social inequalities in economic life
- Stratification and class analysis
- Networks and the organisation of global capitalism

Further details of the syllabus will be dictated by the individual faculty subject to the approval of the Division Head.

**HS7102 Graduate Seminar: Political Sociology**

Power is a fundamental feature of social life, and it is manifested most obviously in the role of political institutions, especially in the modern nation-state. This course examines the nature and exercise of power and political control. In tracing the making of the modern state, it considers the ideological processes that legitimise political rule and government authority, especially in relation to nation-building and citizenship.

Course themes include:

- Theories of power
- Theories of the state
- Social class, politics, and ideology
- Social movements
- Civil society and the public sphere
- Local politics and the politics of global governance

Further details of the syllabus will be dictated by the individual faculty subject to the approval of the Division Head.

**HS7103 Graduate Seminar: Sociology of Cultures**

Culture is transmitted by the institutions and processes of 'socialization' and is drawn into the social construction of personal and collective identities. The graduate seminar will be organised by the following themes:

- Identity and social change
- Ideas, culture, and social change
- Contemporary culture in sociological perspective
- Culture and tradition in a global age

**HS7104 Graduate Seminar : Social Organisation**

Social organisation is a central feature of any society. This course engages different traditions of research in both the broader field of social organisation and the narrower field of organisations. The latter is more specifically concerned with features of bureaucratic and post-bureaucratic organisations and relations between organisations and their environments. This course examines theories and types of social organisations, especially in terms of hierarchy, control, authority, decision-making, and accountability.

- Theories of social organisation
- Bureaucracy, authority, and social control
- Work and occupations
- Organisations in industrial and post-industrial societies

**HS7910 Special Topic: Advanced Quantitative Methods in Social Research**

A PhD in sociology will require competence in advanced research methods. Students lacking necessary quantitative methods training will be required to take methods class prior to enrolling in HS9910.

This course (or equivalent) will equip students with analytic competencies necessary for completion of their masters or PhD research. The syllabus for this course will be determined by the individual faculty subject to the approval of the Division Head.

The two basic options for satisfying the methods requirement are:

1. Completion of guided reading on quantitative methods and philosophy of science within the Division of Sociology
2. Successful completion of a designated course in quantitative methods within NTU (NBS, psychology, economics)

Option one will be organised around the following themes:

- Probability
- Regression analysis
- Log-linear modeling