Course Title: Exploring Hong Kong Through Film and Popular Music

Course Code: C C C U 4 0 4 0

QF Level: 4

Contact Hours: 39 Hours

Aims and Objective

Film and popular music play an important role in our everyday life. This course explores various political, economic, social and cultural issues of Hong Kong through film and popular music. It is designed to help students understand the basic concepts and methodologies commonly used in cultural studies, sociology, film studies and popular music studies, and use multiple perspectives to comprehend and analyze film and music, as well as their relation to society at large.

By applying critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills, students should be able to analyze the interaction between the society and the film and music industries, and have increased knowledge of Hong Kong society.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course

On completion of the course, students should be able to

ILO1. explain the inter-relation between film, popular music and society;
ILO2. evaluate the role of film and popular music in Hong Kong and to analyze the interaction between Hong Kong society and the film and music industries;
ILO3. apply relevant concepts to analyze film and popular music texts from multiple perspectives;
ILO4. identify and describe how film and popular music relate to various political, economic, social and cultural issues in Hong Kong.

Syllabus

1. Introduction and Basic Concepts (2 Lectures)
   - An overview: the story of film and popular music in Hong Kong
   - Text and meaning
   - Production, dissemination and consumption of film and popular music
   - Framework for discussion - Content, form, context

2. National Identity vs Local Identity (1.5 Lectures)
   - “Chineseness” and Chinese national identity in film and popular music
   - Constructing Hong Kong identity through film and popular music

3. Film and Music as Business: Mainstream vs Alternative (1 Lecture)
   - Overview of the film and music industries
   - Blockbusters vs independent movies
   - Mainstream hits vs independent music
   - Analyzing the ecology – multinational corporations, small and medium local enterprises, the independents
   - Can we find alternative ways to produce / consume film and popular music?
4. Love, Sex and Sexuality (1.5 Lectures)
   - Love, sex and sexuality in film and popular music
   - Comparing generations: Relationships, gender roles, and queerness in film and popular music

5. Film, Music, Politics and Social Change (2 Lectures)
   - Film and music as propaganda
   - The power of documentaries
   - “Protest songs” and music in social movements
   - Can filmmakers and songwriters make a change in the society?
   - Can audience in the digital age “use” film and music to make a difference in the society?

Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment (Weighting)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Assessment (100%)</td>
<td>Participation (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Class Assignments (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Test (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group Presentation (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Written Assignment (25%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pre-requisite(s)

Nil

Required and Recommended Reading

References: