



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

HKU COMMON CORE CURRICULUM

Enabling Curriculum Structure

Component (% of total no. of credits)	Courses	No. of credits*
Required for all students (22.5%)	Common Core	36 credits
	English	12 credits
	Chinese	6 credits
Specialization (30% - 40%) (15% - 20%)	Major	72-96 credits
	Minor	36-48 credits
Electives (17.5% - 32.5%)	Electives for all students	Standard: 6-credits; 3 or other multiples of 3 with justification
Total no. of <i>required</i> credits		240 credits

*6 credits = 120 – 180 student workload hours



Goals of the Common Core Curriculum

- a) to enable students to develop a broader perspective and a critical understanding of the complexities and the interconnectedness of the issues that they are confronted with in their everyday lives;
- b) to cultivate students' appreciation of their own culture and other cultures, and the inter-relatedness among cultures;
- c) to enable students to see themselves as members of global as well as local communities and to play an active role as responsible individuals and citizens in these communities; and
- d) to enable students to develop the key intellectual skills that will be further enhanced in their disciplinary studies.



Focus of the Common Core Curriculum

- Essentially, the curriculum focuses on the commonality of human experiences; on issues that have been, and continue to be, of deeply profound significance to humankind.



Common Human Experiences

- The aesthetic expressions of ideas and emotions
- The relationship between individuals and communities, and the role of the former in the later
- The interaction among communities on various scales
- The relationships and interdependencies between human beings, science, technology and nature
- The beliefs and values that are essential to human bonding and to mediating tensions within and between groups
- The relationship between our past, present and future



Three approaches

- Distribution model
- Great books
- Areas of inquiry and themes



HKU Common Core Curriculum

Area of Inquiry	Themes
<p>Scientific and Technological Literacy</p>	<p>The nature and methods of science Science, technology and society Science, technology and global issues Science and technology in everyday life</p>
<p>The Humanities</p>	<p>The creative arts Historical awareness: past and present Language, communication and society Mind, body and spirit Thinking critically: ethics and society</p>
<p>China: Culture, State and Society</p>	<p>Chinese culture: thoughts, values and ways of life Chinese civilization: state, society and economy China's changing environment China's quest for modernization The rise of China in the 21st century: challenges and prospects</p>
<p>Global Issues</p>	<p>Global issues, local lives Challenges of global governance Globalization and economic development Global ethics and citizenship</p>



Humanities

Themes:

- *The creative arts*
- *Historical awareness: past and present*
- *Language, communication and society*
- *Mind-body-spirit*
- *Ethics and society*

Common Human Experiences

The Common Core Curriculum aims to help students see the interconnectedness and the interdependent nature of human existence through exploring the following common human experiences:

- The aesthetic (or symbolic) expressions of ideas and emotions
- The relationship between individuals and communities, and the role of the former in the latter
- The interaction amongst communities on various scales
- The relationships and interdependencies between human beings, science, technology and nature
- The beliefs and values that are essential to human bonding and to mediating tensions within and between groups
- The relationship between our past, present and future

Scientific & Technological Literacy

Themes:

- *The nature and methods of science*
- *Science, technology and society*
- *Science, technology and global issues*
- *Science and technology in everyday life*
- *Frontiers of science and technology*

Global Issues

Themes:

- *Global issues, local lives*
- *Challenges of global governance*
- *Globalization and economic development*
- *Global ethics and citizenship*

China: Culture, State and Society

Themes:

- *Chinese culture*
- *Chinese civilization*
- *China's changing environment*
- *China's quest for modernization*
- *The rise of China in the 21st century*

