

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

### COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

#### **CLB9001 Masterpieces in Chinese Literature 中國文學名著選讀 (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: Chinese)

This course consists of lectures on the traditional as well as modern literary master works. The course aims at cultivating the interests of students in the study of Chinese literature and understanding how masterpieces and their writers express the problem of people and possible solutions, for example the sense of alienation. The skills of reading and writing of the major genres of Chinese literature will be introduced to students, sample work representing the characteristics of masterpieces from Pre- Qin (先秦) to twentieth-century are required readings.

#### **CLB9002 Chinese-Language Literature in Global Contexts**

全球語境下的中文文學 (3 credits)

(Language of Instruction: Chinese)

This course introduces students to the study of the selected works of Chinese-language literature in global contexts.

#### **CLB9003 Cross-cultural Studies of Children's Fantasy Literature (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: Chinese and English)

This course introduces students to the rich and expanding area of children's fantasy literature both in Chinese and in English. As well as reviewing the various definitions of children's fantasy literature and surveying the key texts and movements that have shaped this literature genre, the course will focus on the reception of these fantasies. Different renditions of the classic children's fantasy literature will be studied. How Chinese and English fantasies are received and perceived cross-culturally will also be explored in terms of a broader understanding of translation. The key thematic focus will be on "cross-cultural imagination".

#### **CLB9004 Topics in World Literature: Literary Utopianism (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua) and English)

This course explores a theme of timeless relevance—the visualization of an ideal society—via important texts in the literary and intellectual traditions of China, Europe and India. Attention will be paid to artistic features, cultural premises and historical contexts. The topical platform fosters cross-cultural comparisons, as ancient and modern texts offer longitudinal perspectives on cultural-intellectual orientations, literary expressions and antithetical (anti-utopian) views.

#### **CLB9005 Evolution of Chinese Language 漢語通論 (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: Chinese)

This course offers an introduction to both classical and modern Chinese language, with emphasis on the characteristics and evolution of Chinese characters, phonology, lexicon and grammar. It aims at cultivating in the students a deeper knowledge of Chinese language.

#### **CLB9006 Media Literacy (3 credits)**

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop an overall understanding of the complexity of mass media messages and their meanings in our everyday lives. Media literacy concerns both production and consumption of messages – writing, reading, speaking, listening. Emphasis is thus on developing critical skills to “read” media messages, and to reflect on the media industries which are responsible for producing these

messages. It is expected that students, after taking this course, will develop basic skills to critically analyse the process of media making from different perspectives, including gender, cultural, and ethical ones. Through discussion, reading, group projects, role playing and other work, students will be expected to gain an understanding into the complex role of mass media in our culture's development, and most importantly, our lives.

**CLB9009 The Origin and Functions of Art (3 credits)** (deleted from 2022-23)

The course aims to introduce students to the origin and functions of art in human history. It intends to arouse student interest in using an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the meaning of art to man and society. It begins with the question of where art comes from. By studying the artifacts of Neolithic times and primitive cultures, it investigates the behaviour and theory of human creativity from a bio-behavioural perspective. It then proceeds to see how 'art' began and has become an important component in different civilisations. By scrutinizing a large spectrum of artifacts and art works of different times and places, it will examine the social and cultural contexts of art.

**CLB9010 An Introduction to Chinese Kunqu and Peking Operas Appreciation**  
**中國戲曲—京崑藝術欣賞 (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: Putonghua)

Chinese theatre has had a far-reaching influence on shaping Chinese language and culture. Among all 360 traditional Chinese operas and theatre performing arts, *Kunqu* Opera and Peking Opera have taken the leading positions in the domain. *Kunqu* Opera was awarded "non-material World Cultural Heritage in China" by UNESCO, and Peking Opera is the form which has become the national opera of China. This latter form has surpassed all other types since the 19th century. Influenced primarily by *Kunqu* Opera, Peking Opera has been able to integrate various kinds of Chinese opera and performing arts. This course introduces a basic knowledge of *Kunqu* Opera and Peking Opera. By introducing students to the rich history, cultural significance, and artistic elements of Chinese traditional opera, students will have the opportunity to discuss and present their selected topics of how Chinese opera reflects historical events, societal norms, diverse cultural contexts and real-world challenges. In addition, students will appreciate, analyse and practice basic singing in Peking Opera and *Kunqu* Opera, and explore the social responsibility of artists in promoting cultural understanding, tolerance, and inclusivity. Professionals will be also invited to deliver seminars and demonstrations of various styles of Opera Arts.

In addition to lectures, arrangements will be made to attend theater performances to appreciate Peking Opera and *Kunqu* Opera performances. Students will also be given opportunities to practice with performers. At the end of the Term, the students will be required to submit a paper to demonstrate what they have gained.

**CLB9012 The Four Books and Chinese Intellectual Tradition**  
**《四書》與中國士人傳統 (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: Chinese)

This course introduces students to the basic concepts of Confucian humanism contained in the four great Confucian texts—*The Four Books*—and examines the formation and transformation of Chinese intellectual tradition. It provides students with an in-depth study of selected passages from *The Analects of Confucius (Lunyu)*, *Mencius (Mengzi)*, *The Great Learning (Daxue)*, as well as *The Doctrine of the Mean (Zhongyong)*.

**CLB9013 Dialogue Interpreting: Chinese and English (3 credits)** (deleted from 2024-25)

(Language of Instruction: Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua) and English)

This course examines the linguistic, cultural, and contextual considerations in the

rendition of verbal utterances in exchanges between Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua) and English in general, daily, and non-technical situations. The source audio materials in Chinese may be in Cantonese or in Putonghua. For tasks requiring students to interpret into Chinese, students may choose to use Cantonese or Putonghua.

Simple and short texts of general exchanges will be used to illustrate the politeness and cooperative principles of quantity, quality, relation, and manner in interpreted exchanges. Further topics include bilingual knowledge of terminologies and expressions in food items, cooking style, Chinese dishes, physical discomfort, common medical terms, and English usage in work setting, for example, the way to agree, disagree, and to interrupt.

### **CLB9014 Food, Culture and Identity (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: English supplemented with Cantonese)

Not only is food vital for survival, it is also a substance that is important to the construction of cultures and identities. Indeed, whether it is the sense of robust unpretentiousness that is often associated with the American hamburger or the meticulous attentiveness of the *kaiseki ryori* 懷石料理, there are undeniable similarities behind the process of associating one type of food to a particular nationality and the imagination/construction of that national identity. The study of the gastronomical practices of one group of people, thus, provides a unique and an effective means to gain introspective insights into the forming of various cultural traditions as well as to facilitate the understanding of the process of the formation of cultural identity.

By focusing on the various representations of food in both Chinese and Western cultures, in different mediums that include but are not limited to the literary and the visuals, this course challenges students to look beyond the idea of food as simply a nourishment and to consider the inherent relationship between food and cultural identity in both the Eastern and Western contexts and its translational importance as a means for facilitating cultural exchanges.

### **CLB9015 The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (3 credits)** (deleted from 2019-20)

Using Sergio Leone's *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* (one of the "TIME 100 Greatest Movies of the Last Century," its film title now an idiomatic expression in English) as a starting point, this course introduces students to cultural and artistic expressions of a fundamental in human existence—good and evil. Students will study the expressions of the good, the bad, and the ugly in relation to human feelings, needs, and desires in film, television, the performing arts, and literary writing. Crossing temporal, geographical and cultural boundaries and via various artistic forms, students analyze the related themes of the beautifully ugly and the grotesque, truth and justice, virtues and vices, power and corruption, playing god, angels and demons, crime and punishment, revenge and forgiveness, war and peace, utopia and dystopia, multiculturalism and racism, cultural imperialism and colonialism.

### **CLB9016 Understanding Museums (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to the histories, functions and practices of museums. It will examine the different ways of defining museums, followed by topics broadly divided into the following categories: histories, collections, display, audience and the museum profession. The course takes a critical approach to the study of museums in both Western and Asian cultural contexts. It will highlight past and current issues and the often contested roles that museums are expected to play in society.

### **CLB9017 Screening China 銀幕中國 (3 credits)**

The course introduces students to facets of the image-making of China through a representative selection from mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, overseas Chinese

cinemas. The selected films are examined in their cultural, political and historical contexts with a particular emphasis on issues such as nationhood, identity, urbanization, gender, historical and social changes, and globalization.

**CLB9018 Thinking Like an Anthropologist (3 credits)**

This course aims at providing the students with a basic understanding of the diversity of human culture and society in the world. The pedagogical approach of this course is designed to teach the students with diverse academic or professional backgrounds to think *like* an anthropologist. The course is structured around a number of key questions, which are drawn mainly from cultural anthropology and are foundational for all branches of the humanities. By discussing these key questions, students will learn what it means to be human and its diverse possibilities. Other than rendering the strange familiar and the familiar strange, the course will help the students to develop insight into how the seemingly most practical and commonsensical aspects of any person's life can be most broadly informed by the shifting cultural and social contexts of which they consider themselves a part.

**CLB9019 Childhood, Youth and Culture (3 credits)**

This course brings together key themes and issues in the area of childhood and youth studies by providing diverse theoretical perspectives on the study of children and youth across the disciplines in arts, humanities, and social sciences. It pays particular attention to the socio-historical contexts in which "children" and "youth" have been defined, accepted and challenged in history. The course also problematizes the major institutional sites, such as family, school and media, which are closely related to a person's growth from birth to adolescence and adulthood. While focusing on the representation of children and youth in advertisement, television, film, arts and government policies, this course enables students to reflect upon their personal experiences, and to explore the agency of children and youth.

**CLB9020 Understanding Language in Film (3 credits)**

The course is designed as an introduction to understanding how language operates within films and how verbal language connects with different aspects of the visual narrative of films. The course is conceived with the aim of raising students' interest and awareness of linguistic, literary, aesthetic, and cross-cultural issues by exploring various aspects of language as a theme in films. The course encourages students to consider the roles that language plays in narrative films by fostering students' critical and analytical skills from a wide range of perspectives. With an aim to develop as many opportunities for meaningful communication in English, the course will help students appreciate the nuances of language within the context of films as literary and cultural texts.

**CLB9021 Cross-Cultural Studies of the Supernatural in Literature (3 credits)**  
(deleted from 2024-25)

(Language of Instruction: Cantonese/ Putonghua and English)

This course is a guide to the genre of supernatural literature in both Chinese and English. There are three areas of focus. First, students will learn to appreciate the required texts critically through close reading. Attention will be paid to their literary forms, literary techniques, and socio-historical contexts. Second, taking 'supernatural' in the broadest sense, this course will examine the origin and development of the supernatural in the Chinese and English literary traditions. Finally, translation issues will be brought to light through comparison of translated works in this genre.

**CLB9022 Music and World Cultures (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to the diversity and range of musical cultures in the selected areas of Europe, Africa, India, East Asia and Southeast Asia. Assuming no previous musical training, it will explore how the musics and musical instruments of different world cultures share common fundamental characteristics. At the same time, it

will demonstrate the uniqueness of the music produced by any given culture. In examining both the commonalities and differences across different world musics, the course will also show how cultures apply music to an array of art forms (e.g. dance, theatre) and social contexts (e.g. religion, political intervention, globalisation). It will analyse the role of music in these combined art forms and explore how music can be applied to its social context with the contribution of students' personal responsibility, and put into that specific social context, its social responsibility. Students will listen to and watch a range of musical recordings and performances, and critically evaluate these through discussion and writing and the reading of relevant scholarship. It will both deepen students' appreciation of music itself and also enhance their understanding of the connections between music and other arenas of art and life.

**CLB9023 Zombies in Fiction (3 credits)** (deleted from 2020-21)

This course encourages students to explore the major questions of a liberal arts education via the popular figure of the zombie: what does it mean to be human? What should our relationship be to the other? What is our place in the universe? Zombie fiction is an expression of some of our deepest anxieties about humanity and its survival. The figure of the zombie also serves as a metaphor for key issues of our contemporary life such as consumerism, racial difference and environmental disaster, to name a few. This course provides students with the opportunity to test their own ideas about humanity, life and death, morality, and survival, against the fiction they read.

**CLB9024 English in Popular Song (3 credits)** (deleted from 2024-25)

This course is designed as an introduction to English language song across a range of periods, genres, styles and topics. From the 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards, English has become the major international language for song writing and listening. However, the close relationship between song and poetry in earlier centuries will provide a starting point, and songs in Shakespeare plays, for example, will be heard and explored. Folk ballads and folk songs will also be read and listened to in order to arouse critical interest and discussion. Later song styles and forms will also be experienced and discussed in the course, with an emphasis on more recent and contemporary singer-songwriters of the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries from the age of Blues, Jazz and early Rock'n Roll to significant Pop, Rock, Rap, Hip-hop and Stage Musical examples by the eclectic artists of today, whose work bears the influence of all these styles. The relationship between musical melody and song lyrics will be listened to, and lyrical devices and sonic effects will also be studied. The influence of music video (e.g. MTV) will be considered in relation to word-image juxtaposition, as will the recent phenomenon of 'mash-up', i.e. splicing two very different songs together which raises challenging issues of copyright and ownership. Students will have the opportunity to present their favourite songwriters and songs in their presentation and sharing assignment. No musical experience or knowledge is required, only an open mind and a ready ear (or better still, two).

**CLB9025 Love and Sexuality (3 credits)** What is love? Should we love our family more than strangers? What is romantic love and how is it related to sexuality? This course discusses several approaches to love and sexuality from different traditions and times. Among the main issues discussed, are: what is the essence of love, how can it be best understood, are some people more deserving of love than others, how will future developments of technology and society might affect our understanding of love?

**CLB9026 Beauty (3 credits)** (deleted from 2020-21)

This course discusses the nature of beauty and how beauty is connected to a variety of other aspects of our life and culture. For instance, some have argued that beauty is evil, an instrument of the devil, while others have claimed that beauty is a manifestation of the divine. Beauty is sometimes said to be in the eyes of the beholder, and other times it is said to be a property that certain objects or organisms may have in virtue of the

arrangement of their parts (e.g., in virtue of the *harmonious* combination of some of their parts). Sometimes also abstract thoughts or mathematical theorems are described as beautiful. In addition to the previous ideas, we will discuss: (i) the relationship between love and beauty, (ii) the concept of beauty in various Asian traditions (e.g., the Japanese concept of *wabi-sabi*), (iii) human beauty, (iv) environmental beauty, (v) functional beauty, (vi) artistic beauty, and (vii) various literary and philosophical descriptions of beautiful entities.

**CLB9027 Topics in World Literature: Women in Traditional Societies 世界文學論  
題：傳統社會中的女性 (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: Bilingual (i.e., in Chinese and English) in accordance with the language of the original/translated texts.)

This course offers an introduction to philosophical, religious literary, and social conceptions of women through a comparative study of relevant texts and discourses in the Chinese and non-Chinese (mainly Western) traditions. Students will examine ideas and practices that are partly universal and partly time/culture-bound with a critical inquiry into several modes of epistemology whereby woman was presented and produced in different societies and cultural contexts. Attention will be paid to fostering a broad-minded understanding of literary and cultural developments from their beginnings to the modern age. The course will be taught bilingually (i.e., in Chinese and English) in accordance with the language of the original/translated texts.

**CLB9028 Ecology and Chinese Cinema (3 credits)**

(Language of Instruction: English\*)

This course is a survey of Chinese ecocinema--films that manifest ecological concerns and address environmental issues in Chinese film history. Students will explore a wide range of cinematic representations of ecological problems in China, and investigate cultural implications of these problems. Attention will be paid to developing humanistic understanding of environmental issues and reflecting on their cultural roots. Film screening will be scheduled outside class meetings.

(\* Although all courses are taught in English except otherwise specified in this Course Description Section, the language of instruction of this course is explicitly stated for clarity.)

**CLB9029 Science Fiction in Literature and Visual Arts (3 credits)**

This course is intended to introduce students to some of the major works and themes in science-fiction (SF) literature and visual arts. The course will discuss contemporary and classic SF authors and provide historical and theoretical background to understand their works. SF has been highly influential in popular culture also because of the breadth of topics and ideas explored. For example, SF works may deal with: hypothetical utopian or dystopian scenarios (G. Orwell's *1984*, P.K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle*), artificial intelligence and the interaction between humans and machines (I. Asimov's *I, Robot*, A. Garland's *Ex Machina*), personal identity and memory alterations (G. Egan's story 'Learning to be me', R. Scott's *Blade Runner*), time and time-travel (K. Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*), interaction with alien races (Liu Cixin's *The Three-Body Problem*, T. Chiang's *Story of Your Life*), space exploration (S. Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, S. Lem's *Solaris*), and many others. The course will provide the students with a selection of starting points in this vast genre and the intellectual resources required to understand and appreciate these works. Particular emphasis will be put on the philosophical problems and dilemmas explored in the selected texts, movies, or TV series episodes.

### **CLB9030 Vampires, Monsters, and the Gothic in Literature and Culture (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to the concept and representations of the Gothic in early history, art, architecture, poetry, fiction, and film. As the longest surviving cultural tradition in the West, the Gothic has never lost its fascination. This is seen in the proliferation of vampire films, Gothic courses, Gothic sub-cultures, and the International Gothic in art. Via a variety of readings, discussions, classroom activities, media clips, film, written assignments and creative project presentations, students will study the elements of the gothic related to such themes as terror and horror, appearance and reality, setting and confinement, justice and injustice, and the politics of transgression. The focus in this course will be on the Western tradition from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, but examples of Gothic youth cultures from Asia will be included as well.

### **CLB9031 Madness and Literature (3 credits)**

This course examines the linguistic, cultural, and contextual considerations in the rendition of verbal utterances in exchanges between Chinese and English in general, daily, and non-technical situations. The source audio materials in Chinese may be in Cantonese or in Putonghua. For tasks requiring students to interpret into Chinese, students may choose to use Cantonese or Putonghua.

Simple and short texts of general exchanges will be used to illustrate the politeness and cooperative principles of quantity, quality, relation, and manner in interpreted exchanges. Further topics include bilingual knowledge of terminologies and expressions in food items, cooking style, Chinese dishes, physical discomfort, common medical terms, and English usage in work setting, for example, the way to agree, disagree, and to interrupt.

### **CLB9032 Understanding Morality (3 credits)**

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and CCC8003 Understanding Morality; and take both this course and PHI1003 Ethics: East and West)

This course invites the students to reflect on some of the most central questions in ethics: What is morally right and wrong? What is the morally good life? Is there a single moral theory or are morals specific to particular cultures, epochs or even individuals? Is the rightness or wrongness of an action determined exclusively by the foreseeable consequences that it has? Is pleasure the only moral good or does the notion of virtue have a role in determining morality? What is the role of emotions in the process of making a moral choice? The course discusses some of the answers to the previous questions that the contemporary major ethical theories offer.

Much attention will be paid to constructing a critical and rational approach to a wider understanding of human values. This will mean seeking both to understand other viewpoints sympathetically, but also subjecting them, and one's own, to critical appraisal. As such, this course also tackles a range of specific moral problems including questions of cultural relativism, animal rights, euthanasia, and global poverty. The course will avoid technical terminology to the degree that avoiding it will not constitute a significant decrease in depth and understanding.

### **CLB9033 Introduction to Musics of the World and Sustainability (3 credits)**

(Note: Students who have taken CLB9099b Musical Sustainability on the Silk Road cannot enroll in this course.)

“Sustainability” is often understood as management of finite resources for both present and future use, most commonly with regards to natural resources and often with an eye on possible economic benefits. The study of music and sustainability, however, allows students to reexamine the latter term's in a deeper level: from the preservation and revitalisation of specific types of endangered music, to community-building and

sustenance through music, and finally to the use of music in promoting the protection of the nature. Through studying the experiences of traditional musics around the world, students will engage critically in a range of topics where music and various notions of sustainability meets, such as cultural policy, cultural heritage management, community-building, tourism and economy, activism, conflict and peace-building, well-being, and environmentally-sustainable practices. Students will learn about practical application of these understanding in a final project related to music and sustainability in Hong Kong.

**CLB9034 Music Across the Generations: Western Popular Music in the Post-World War II Period (3 credits)**

(Note: Students who have taken HST3399f Sex, Drugs, & Rock 'n' Roll: Music and Revolution in the Post-World War II West or CLB9099c Music Across the Generations: Western Popular Music in the Post-World War II Period cannot enroll in this course.)

This course will investigate the intersection of music and social evolution in the post-World War II period, between approximately 1945 and 1980. Under the overarching umbrella of “The Development of a Youth Culture and Inter-Generational Dialogue”, it will be organized around three primary topics, focusing on core aspects of those processes: 1) Race and the Civil Rights struggle; 2) the Peace Movement (in particular, resistance to nuclear weapons and to the Vietnam war); 3) the Sexual Revolution and gender issues. For all of these topics, attention will be paid to both social/political developments and relevant musical expressions relating to them, in a variety of music genres but primarily rock ‘n’ roll. No prior musical knowledge or experience is expected.

**CLB9035 Korean Pop Culture in a Global Context (3 credits)**  
(from Term 2, 2022-23)

Korean popular culture has recently gained critical attention in the global media marketplace. Particularly, Hallyu (the Korean Wave), a term coined in Asia describing the widespread popularity of Korean cultural products and its regional and trans-regional influences, has been prominently addressed by the scholars, the critics, and the fans altogether in many parts of Asia. Through readings, discussions, in-class screenings, and presentations, this introductory course aims to provide a comprehensive view of contemporary Korean culture, society, and politics through examining some of the most representative forms of popular culture.

**CLB9036 Hong Kong Cinema: A Brief History (3 credits)**

This course aims to provide an overview of the resonance and impact of Hong Kong cinema in local and global contexts. Films made in Hong Kong have over the past decades made their marks in world cinema and in the cultural memory of Hong Kong people. Hong Kong history and socio-cultural change constitute the local frame where we can study how films resonate with local audiences. International receptions of Hong Kong and the circulation of Hong Kong film style in Hollywood constitute the global frame where we can study Hong Kong cinema’s lasting influence. The course will organise around stylistic and genre analysis, directors, thematic reading, and review of selected literature on Hong Kong cinema, history, and society.

**CLB9099 Special Topics in CLB Cluster (3 credits)**

The subject matter of this course varies according to the expertise of the subject teachers or visiting scholars available. Special topics will mostly complement regular courses offered in the CLB cluster, to provide a broad range of general knowledge and wide perspectives for students to investigate, analyse and reflect on issues and topics related to Humanities and the Arts.



**CLB9099a Hong Lou Meng and Chinese People's World Vision and Humanistic Life (3 credits)** (deleted from 2022-23)

Hong Lou Meng, as the pinnacle of Chinese classical novels, is known as "the encyclopedia of Chinese feudal society", this course aims to study the food, tea ceremony, poetry, calligraphy, painting, marriage and other substances in Hong Lou Meng, as well as its translation and overseas communication. After studying, students not only have a deeper understanding of the novel's layout, structure, character description and other skills, but also have a deeper understanding of the social, historical, cultural and humanistic spirit contained in it. Furthermore, through study and discussion, students can develop their ability to think independently, and draw inspiration to their creations of contemporary fiction and art.

**CLB9099b Musical Sustainability on the Silk Road (3 credits)** (deleted from 2022-23)

This course introduces students to notions about musical sustainability, and how they are realised in the musical heritage of the ancient Silk Road. Students will learn about the cultures of different nations that inhabit regions such as Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Middle East, and how their traditional musics has been sustained through experiences such as modernisation, colonisation, globalisation, commercialisation, conflicts and migration. Students will critically evaluate the sustainability of different music genres through listening and watching recordings of performances and learning about the social and cultural structures that made such performances possible.

**CLB9099c Music Across the Generations: Western Popular Music in the Post-World War II Period (3 credits)** (deleted from 2022-23)

(Note: Students who have taken HST3399f Sex, Drugs, & Rock 'n' Roll: Music and Revolution in the Post-World War II West cannot enroll in this course)

This course will investigate the intersection of music and social evolution in the post-World War II period, between approximately 1945 and 1980. Under the overarching umbrella of "The Development of a Youth Culture and Inter-Generational Dialogue", it will be organized around three primary topics, focusing on core aspects of those processes: 1) Race and the Civil Rights struggle; 2) the Peace Movement (in particular, resistance to nuclear weapons and to the Vietnam war); 3) the Sexual Revolution and gender issues. For all of these topics, attention will be paid to both social/political developments and relevant musical expressions relating to them, in a variety of music genres but primarily rock 'n' roll. No prior musical knowledge or experience is expected.