1. **Course Description**

This course provides students with an understanding of religion and modern culture, and the relationship which has existed between them. To set the stage for investigation and discussion, the course will begin with a brief introduction to some basic concepts in religion and modern culture. From there the course will study how religious beliefs, concepts and practices have shaped and been shaped by the forces of contemporary culture (among them, the challenges of capitalism, secularism globalization, and technology) by inter-disciplinary approach of the study of religious and cultural perspectives.

2. **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- develop an understanding of the relationships among religion and modern culture;
- develop an understanding of how religious ideas and practices have been transformed in contemporary culture context;
- develop critical thinking skills by evaluating theoretical perspectives on the discussions of religion and other aspects of modern culture;
- develop strategies for preparing individuals to live harmoniously and productively in a multicultural, and multinational world.

3. **Learning Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial Presentation &amp; Discussion</th>
<th>Tutorial presentation</th>
<th>Field-trip</th>
<th>Course Reading</th>
<th>Written Assignment</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2 per week</td>
<td>10 in the semester</td>
<td>1.5 in the semester</td>
<td>10 in the semester (out class)</td>
<td>1 per week (out class)</td>
<td>10 in the semester (out class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

M: Mandatory activity in the course  O: Optional activity  NA: Not applicable
## 4. Course Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part I: Religion and Modern Culture</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15/1</td>
<td>Course Introduction: Religion, Culture and Symbols</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2     | 22/1  | Modern Culture (I): The challenge of modernity: secularization and Globalization  
| 3     | 28/1  | Modern Culture (II): Responses to modernity: fundamentalism and post-Durkheimian spirituality  
*Reading*: Martin, D. “The Evangelical Protestant Upsurge and Its Political Implications.” |
|       |       | **Part II: Religion and Culture in the Space of Human Body**            |
| 4     | 5/2   | Religious Consumerism and the Self                                     
| 5     | 19/2  | Death and Dying                                                        
| 6     | 26/2  | No Class  
**Field Study on Sunday – 蓮池寺/大佛**                                 |
|       |       | **Part III: Religion and Culture in the Space of Society**              |
| 7     | 5/3   | Religion and Tourism                                                   
*Reading*: Olsen, D. H. and Timothy, D. J. “Tourism and religious journeys.” |
| 8     | 12/3  | Religious Commodifications and Megachurches                            
*Reading*: Tong, J. K. C. “McDonaldization and the megachurches: A case study of City Harvest Church, Singapore.” |
| 9     | 19/3  | No Class  
**Field Study – Mega Church/Emerging Church**                          |
| 10    | 26/3  | Environmentalism: Religious or Secular?                                
*Reading*: Gottlieb, R. S. “Religion and Ecology—What is the Connection and Why Does it Matter?” |
|       |       | **Part IV: Religion and Culture in the Space of Media**                |
| 11    | 2/4   | No Class - Instructors’ Leave                                          |
| 12    | 9/4   | Religion and Contemporary Visual Art                                   
| 13    | 16/4  | Field Study: Religion and Art (Tentative)                              |
| 14    | 23/4  | Conclusion: Enactments of Meaning                                     

*Required Reading*

5. Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay test or exam (%)</th>
<th>Short answer test or exam (%)</th>
<th>Selected response test or exam (%)</th>
<th>Participatio n and Discussion (%)</th>
<th>Field Trip Reports (%)</th>
<th>Presentation (%)</th>
<th>Term Paper (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
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</table>

- **Participation and Class Discussion (10% + 10%)**
  It is expected that you would have no more than two absences in the class. It is also strongly encouraged that you participate in various discussions in class and in tutorials. You are required to do a book report for each absence from the tutorial.

- **Class Presentation (30%)**
  3-4 students in a group give a 30-minute presentation on the issues listed in the course syllabus in tutorial class. Students are encouraged to provide a 2-page single-spaced summary of their findings, reflections and suggestions on the issue for distribution to the class as a handout. **Audio-visual data** shown in the presentation are highly appreciated.

- **Field Trip Report (20%)**
  2 Field Trip Reports are required to document the findings that you participate in a field trip provided in the course. Guided questions will be provided in advance of visit. The field trip is expected to demonstrate an ability to recognize the concepts and the materials covered in the class.

- **Term Paper (30%)**
  - Select one of the following cultural phenomenon; (1) study how one of religious traditions influence/ is influenced by the phenomena, and (2) how this influence impacts individuals society. **Essay Length: 3500-4000 words.**
    - Religion and Death Culture
    - Religion and Body Culture
    - Religion and Sex
    - Religion and Family Values
    - Religion and Consumer Culture
    - Religion and Contemporary Art
  - Or, other cultural phenomena approved by the instructor
- Papers will be graded according to its content, focus of argument, discussion, and academic referencing style. The main objective of this reflection paper is to have students familiarize themselves with the original source materials and the extensive literature available on this topic (at least provide 10 formal academic quotations).
- Papers should be handed in both hard and soft copy via VeriGuide on 21 (Mon) – 27 (Fri), April, 2013. Late submission will be penalized: 10 marks will be deducted for one day of late submission. Submission after 10 days will be given a zero mark.

6. Tutorial Arrangement (Tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Workshop: How to write an academic paper</td>
<td>Workshop: How to do a qualitative study</td>
<td>Meeting with the Tutor – How to approach the presentation issue, and collect the presentation materials</td>
<td>Meeting with the Tutor – Group 1 &amp; 2: Fix the Presentation Outline</td>
<td>Meeting with the Tutor – Group 3 &amp; 4: Fix the Presentation Outline</td>
<td>Meeting with the Tutor – Group 5 &amp; 6: Fix the Presentation Outline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Group Presentation 1</td>
<td>Group Presentation 2</td>
<td>Group Presentation 3</td>
<td>Group Presentation 4</td>
<td>Group Presentation 5</td>
<td>*Paper Writing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Feedback for evaluation
- End-of-term university course evaluation will be conducted in class.
- Students’ comments and feedback on the course through e-mails or personal meeting with the instructor are always welcomed.

8. Facility for Posting Course Announcements
Related course materials are delivered via the platform BLACKBOARD” (http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/eLearning/)

9. Academic honesty and plagiarism
- Students must submit their papers in soft copy via VeriGuide. Relevant information on academic honesty and plagiarism can be allocated at: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty.
- When you use other writer’s ideas or findings, you are advised to represent them in your own words. Simply copying of full sentences or parts of sentences from the source article is not allowed.
10. References

**Religion, Myth, Ritual and Culture**


**Religion and the Construction of Self**


**Religion, Body and Sexuality**


Brown D. and Leledaki A. Eastern movement forms as body-self transforming cultural practices in the West: Towards a sociological perspective. *Cultural Sociology* 4, 1, 2010,


**Religion and Consumer Culture**


**The challenge of modernity: secularization and Globalization**


*亨廷頓（Huntington, S. P.）1993. 文明的衝突？《二十一世紀雙月刊》. 余國良譯. 19（10月）: 5-21.*
Responses to modernity: fundamentalism and post-Durkheimian spirituality


Religion and Tourism


Religious Commodifications and Megachurches


Religion and Environmentalism


Gottlieb, R. S. 2006. “Religion and Ecology—What is the Connection and Why Does it Matter?”


**Religion and Cybertulture**


**Religion, Film and Contemporary Art**


