

HUMA1000E Cultures and Values: Freedom, Justice, and the Good
FALL 2021 Course Outline (*Subject to changes*)

Lecturing faculty:

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Writing workshop teaching faculty:

Language Instructors from Center for Language Education (CLE)

Canvas online discussion coordinator:

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Course Description:

This course focuses on conceptions of the “good life” and justice in relation to questions of human and environmental flourishing. We will consider issues such as the practices and values that are involved in a good life and a just society; whether ethics is universal or particular and what we owe our nations and humanity; the reality of conflict and how conflicts might be resolved or managed; the morality of human nature; environmental and animal ethics; the ethics of war and peace; utilitarian, deontological, virtue and existential ethics. These issues will allow students to reflect upon a range of values in both their personal and public lives involving the nature of goodness, rightness, justice and the common good in modern social-political conditions.

Course highlights:

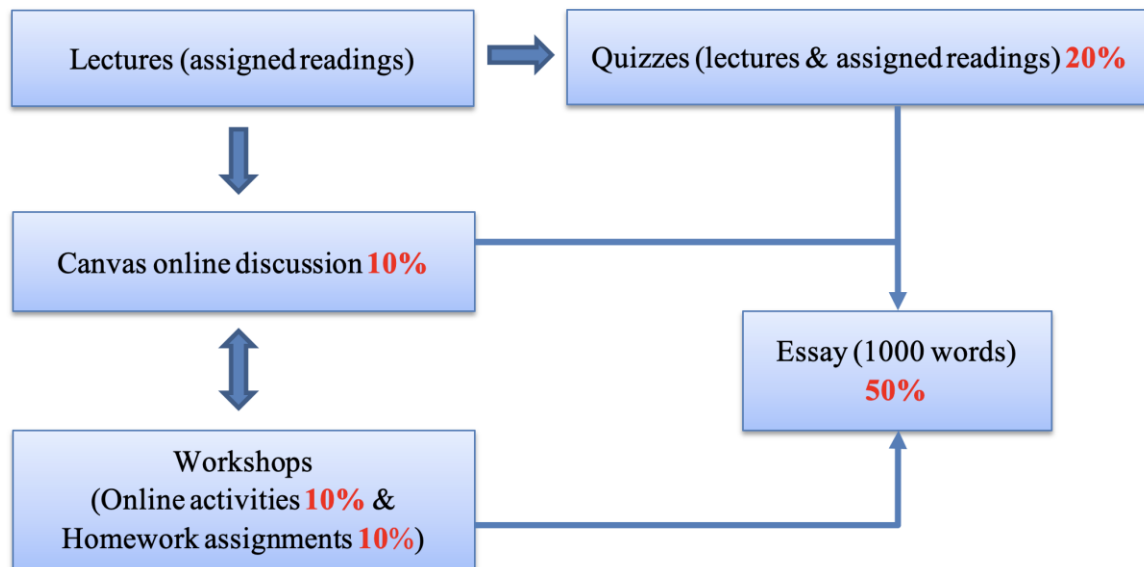
- 3-credit HUMA common core course with no exam but one essay, Canvas online discussion, and lecture quizzes
- Learn how to convince others in writing
- Learn more about three specific values: Freedom, Justice, and the Good

The objectives of the course are two-fold:

- (1) For communicative capacity building through humanities knowledge and
- (2) For enrichment of values and perspectives corresponding to the mission and vision of UST.

The course encompasses three *interrelated* strands of learning:

- a) Lectures on specific humanities perspective and values;
- b) Writing workshops to sharpen communication skills for the essay; and
- c) Canvas online discussion for exchange and comments among peers on lectures and essays.



Assessment:

1	Lecture quizzes	➤ Composed of multiple-choice questions	20%
2	Canvas online discussion	➤ Peer exchange forum on questions and issues pertinent to lectures and weekly readings; ➤ Three discussion topics will be posted progressively throughout the semester, each with its own deadline.	10%
3(a)	Writing workshops: Online activities	➤ Viewed online content and completed all online quizzes before each workshop	10%
3(b)	Writing workshops: Homework assignments	➤ Completed all homework on Canvas (including draft essay)	10%
4	Final Essay	➤ Write a persuasive essay of 1000 words, ➤ Which is revised at least once ➤ Which shows response to feedback on your first draft	50%

What students are expected to do:

Assigned readings for lectures: There are assigned readings for the lectures on the three values. Students must read them in order to follow the lectures. The lecture quizzes will test comprehension of these readings and the lecture contents.

Participating in lectures and the quizzes: Lectures will introduce to students the basic concepts and theories regarding the three values: Freedom, Justice, and the Good. Students are expected to do the assigned readings, follow the lectures closely, and participate in activities during the lectures. They will need to connect what they learn in the lectures with what they do in the online discussion forum, the writing workshops, and the essay writing.

This connection is graded. There are lecture quizzes to assess how much they have acquired from these lecture contents and materials.

The Writing Workshops: The Writing Workshops will be presented in two strands: online and an classroom. The online strand consists of four blocks of material, each of which contains tasks to check that you have understood the content. These blocks have been designed to prepare you for the first four classroom workshops, held in alternate weeks. If you do not complete the online part of each workshop, you will not be prepared for the classroom part of the workshop and you will not gain the maximum benefit from your time in the classroom.

So long as you work through the online strand of the workshop *before* you attend the classroom session, you can do the online work whenever and wherever you like. A detailed schedule of the classroom workshops is available on Canvas. The writing workshop part of HUMA1000 has been completely redesigned by a team from the Center for Language Education, the Division of Humanities and CEI, the University's specialist center for teaching and learning.

Both strands of the workshops have been designed to help you write a good academic persuasive essay in response to one of the essay prompts given by the member of HUMA faculty in charge of your lectures. You will need to make use of what you have learned from lectures and assigned readings in the writing workshops. **Full details of the course structure and assessment will be given in an orientation in the first lecture.**

Since this is not an English language course, your English proficiency alone will not determine how well you do in this course. However, poor English proficiency may affect your performance because you will be assessed on the ideas and the argument in your essay. Your English proficiency affects how well you can express these ideas and construct an argument. If you are a first year student from Hong Kong and you obtained only a level 3 pass at HKDSE or a level 4 pass with any sub-score lower than 4, our experience suggests you will find it difficult to do well in the course at the moment. We recommend that you wait and take HUMA 1000 after you have completed and passed LANG 1002 and LANG 1003 with at least a grade C-. Further information about the level of English proficiency you need to do well in the course is available on Canvas.

HUMA1000 是一門人文學課程，而不是英語語言課程，因此，你的英語語言水平並不能單獨決定你在這門課程的表現。然而，薄弱的英語能力卻會影響你的表現，因為課程將依據你在論文寫作中所表達的思想和論點來進行測評。你的英語語言水平則會對你在表達觀點和構建論據方面產生影響。如果你是香港本地的一年級學生，同時你在香港中學文憑考試(HKDSE)只達到

3 級，或者達到 4 級卻有任何一卷低於 4 級，根據以往經驗，在現階段修讀 HUMA1000 對你而言會有一定難度。我們建議你在完成並以至少 C- 的成績通過 LANG 1002 和 LANG 1003 兩門課程以後再開始修讀 HUMA1000。其他與修讀 HUMA1000 相關的英語語言水平的進一步資料已上載至 Canvas 以供參考。

Canvas online discussion: Students will take part in online discussion forum on Canvas to exchange among their peers any feelings, ideas, and thoughts, in response to questions about the lectures and assigned readings as posted by the faculty. Questions are open-ended and there is no model answer to look for. The purposes are to exchange ideas, listen to others, and learn from each other.

Final essay: Each student will choose an essay topic from those prescribed and write a persuasive essay of around 1000 words in academic English. Students need to show in their essays that they have made use of what they have learned from the lectures and assigned readings. The first draft must be submitted on time by a prescribed deadline to ensure that students can receive timely feedback from their language instructor and be assessed on their efforts in the process of writing the essay. The final version of the essay must show evidence of revision in response to feedback from the language instructor. Essays must be submitted through the Canvas course site, which will be checked automatically through Turnitin both online and among peers. Please note that there is a policy on late submission.

Rubrics and guidelines about the class assessments & activities can be found on Canvas.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

This course has defined “freedom and justice” as the specific aspect of **humanities perspective** to form the contents of the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs). Within this framework, three basic values will be explored: Freedom, Justice, and the Good.

- ILO#1: Communicate in writing persuasively and effectively.
- ILO#2: Demonstrate a **humanities perspective** in communication.
- ILO#3: Question assertions related to humanities, especially culture and values.
- ILO#4: Show appreciation of different views and contribute to constructive feedback.
- ILO#5: Apply existing empirical and logical skills to make independent judgments about personal values and priorities.
- ILO#6: Appreciate the complexity of: Freedom, Justice, and the Good

Course Schedule and Readings (*Subject to changes*)

Lecture time: Monday 9:30am – 11:20am

[Week 2 – September 6, 2021](#)

Course Introduction: Overview of the course and topics to be covered, with brief mention of the issues, activities, and expectations.

[Week 3 – September 13, 2021](#)

Freedom: The war of all against all in the state of nature

Required Readings: Thomas Hobbes, excerpts from “Leviathan”

[Week 4 – September 20, 2021](#)

Freedom: The general will and the common good

Required Readings: Jean- Jacques Rousseau, excerpts from “The Social Contract”

[Week 5 – September 27, 2021](#)

Freedom: Is humankind progressing towards maturity?

Required Readings: Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment”

[Week 6 – October 4, 2021](#)

Freedom: The freedom of expression

Required Readings: John Stuart Mill, excerpts from “On Liberty”

[Week 7 – October 11, 2021](#)

Justice: Class struggle and revolution

Required Readings: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, excerpts from “The Communist Manifesto”

[Week 8 – October 18, 2021](#)

Quiz 1

Justice: Dictatorship

Required Readings: Rosa Luxemburg, *The Problem of Dictatorship* from “The Russian Revolution”

[Week 9 – October 25, 2021](#)

Justice: The paradox of universal human rights

Required Readings: Hannah Arendt, *The Perplexities of the Rights of Man*, from “The Origins of Totalitarianism”

[Week 10 – November 1, 2021](#)

Freedom and Chinese Culture: Can Confucian society be democratic?

Required Readings: TANG Junyi 唐君毅, XU Fuguan 徐復觀, ZHANG Junmai 張君勱, MOU Zongsan 牟宗三, "A Manifesto for a Re-appraisal of Sinology and Reconstruction of Chinese Culture" (為中國文化敬告世界人士宣言)

[Week 11 – November 8, 2021](#)

What is Freedom?: Positive and negative liberty

Required Readings: Isaiah Berlin, “Two Conceptions of Liberty?”

[Week 12 – November 15, 2021](#)

The Good Society: The role of the public sphere

Required reading: Jürgen Habermas, “The Public Sphere”

Supplementary reading: Jürgen Habermas, “Three Normative Models of Democracy”

[Week 13\(i\) – November 22, 2021](#)

The Good Life: Alienation and authenticity

Required reading: Rahel Jaeggi, “Living One’s Own Life: Self-determination, Self-realization, and Authenticity”

[Week 13\(ii\) – November 29, 2021](#)

Quiz 2