The General Education Foundation (GEF) Programme was fully launched in 2012 as a core component in the undergraduate curriculum of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). It consists of two courses, namely “In Dialogue with Humanity” and “In Dialogue with Nature”, both are core-text courses and seminar-based. The programme has been well received by both teachers and students since its full launch. It is generally agreed that such a reading-intensive programme successfully provides a platform for students to reflect on human values and perennial issues. This poster presents its idea and an overview of its implementation.

**Abstract**

The General Education Foundation (GEF) Programme was fully launched in 2012 as a core component in the undergraduate curriculum of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). It consists of two courses, namely “In Dialogue with Humanity” and “In Dialogue with Nature”, both are core-text courses and seminar-based. The programme has been well received by both teachers and students since its full launch. It is generally agreed that such a reading-intensive programme successfully provides a platform for students to reflect on human values and perennial issues. This poster presents its idea and an overview of its implementation.

**New Undergraduate Curriculum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Unit Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>51-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Elective</td>
<td>51-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor (optional)</td>
<td>18-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>Chinese: 6, English: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Electives</td>
<td>Remaining Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>At least 75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Education of CUHK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21 Units</th>
<th>College General Education</th>
<th>Learning from College Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University General Education (UGE)</td>
<td>15 Units</td>
<td>In Dialogue with Humanity In Dialogue with Nature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GEF Programme**

- General Education Foundation (UGE) Programme
- 6 Units in College General Education
- 4 UGE Areas
- Refer to another poster for details

**Scale of GEF Programme**

- All undergraduate students (~3800 per year)
- Suggested to be taken in term 2 of year one and term 1 of year two
- 12 sessions per year for each teacher, 300 students in total

**What is good life? What is good society?**

This course invites students to investigate the problem of “humanity” — i.e., what it means to be human—at two levels: human as an individual and human as a social being. Students will be engaged in a direct dialogue with literary writers, philosophers and social reformers who address three fundamental questions:

- What makes a good life for me?
- What makes a good society for everyone?
- How do I make possible such a good life and good society?

Through reading, discussing and writing about a wide range of texts extracted from influential classics in the humanities East and West, students will be encouraged to discover their own answers to the three questions by considering views and arguments expressed in the texts, and by exploring how far and in what ways such views and arguments may hold true for the modern world.

**Exploration on Nature**

Core-text oriented with critical attitude
Guide students to broad and dynamical perspectives on “Science” by:

- Tracing the scientific development by highlighting a few essential scientific discoveries
- Analyzing the emerging and characteristics of Modern Science e.g., scientific explanations, methods, worldviews, etc.

**Reflection on Ourselves**

Issue/theme based with open mind
Guide students to reflect on the impact of Science on us, including:

- We humans as a whole
- Why humans as individuals
- The power of scientific thinking and its limitations
- Relation between science and cultural traditions

**Course and Teaching Evaluation (CTE) since Full Launch**

- CTE is conducted every term to collect students’ opinion, which shows that the two foundation courses are both well received by students. In particular, students’ satisfaction with both the course and with the teacher have had steady improvement since the full launch.

**GEF Programme emphasizes on**

- Classic reading on Humanity and Science
- Multicultural and multidisciplinary perspectives
- Students’ common learning experience
- Development of various skills as well as knowledge

**Core-text oriented with critical attitude**

**Learning Support & Further Development**

- Different research projects are undergoing to study students’ reading learning habits and attitudes, to evaluate different teaching methods and assessment schemes.

**Acknowledgements**

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