The Hong Kong Institute of Education

Experience of the Implementation of General Education Curriculum Since 2012

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General Education Curriculum of the HKIEd

The first-year **Foundation course** begins a discussion about thinking skills in the context of disciplinary studies.

The **Breadth** are (which consists of three strands) extend students’ epistemic perspective by asking them to explore more focused topics across different fields -- and to connect those fields and topics to their other work at the Institute. The GEBC are categorized into three strands, namely, (i) Persons, Interpretations, Perspectives; (ii) Community, Society, Culture and (iii) Nature, Science, Technology.

With the installation of the **Foundation and Consolidation** areas, the GE curriculum places greater emphasis on integrative learning, a more supported by research on student learning and current developments in General Education worldwide. It is expect that students may derive a coherent learning experience from taking the various courses in the domain of GE.
### General Education Study Pattern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation Course</th>
<th>Breadth Course</th>
<th>Consolidation Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● 6 cps</td>
<td>● 4 x 3 cps</td>
<td>● 3 cps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2 or Years 2 and 3</td>
<td>Year 3 or Year 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Taken in the first year of study</td>
<td>● Start after successful completion of the GE Foundation Course</td>
<td>● Taken in the 3rd or 4th year of study after successful completion of the GE Breadth courses</td>
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Details of GE Foundation Course

**Course Structure/ Assessments**

- **Two-semester Course (6 cps)**
- **Lectures**
  - 2 hours x 10 weeks x 2 semesters
- **Tutorials**
  - 2 hours x 10 weeks x 2 semesters
- **Assessments**
  - eJournals
  - Essay (each Semester)
  - Presentation
  - ePortfolio
  - Class participation
Evolution of the GEFC (Lecture Series)

2012: 3 themes

- (T1) Perspectives on how we know and what we value
- (T2) Perspectives on language and communication
- (T3) Perspectives on society: local, regional, global
Related Developments of the GEFC

- Implementation of eJournals since 2013/14
  - eJournal: a short entry for students to focus their own thinking about individual lecture topics
  - eJournals form the basis of an ePortfolio

- Reviewed the evaluation mechanism by introducing e-questionnaires at the end of each topic’s final lecture
  - a 1-2 minutes e-questionnaire to collect student feedback on each topic
  - students be asked to complete the e-questionnaire “on the spot” using their mobile device

- Public Speaking workshop (Speaking Out Week) in 2014/15
  - aim: to motivate and to enable students to become engaged and active thinkers, inquirers and learners across a range of subject areas and domains
  - student feedback showed that the workshop was worthwhile and warranted repeating in future years.
Related Developments of the GEFC

- Hong Kong Popular Culture Seminar Series
  - aim: to supplement the content of the GEFC by inviting eminent scholars in the field to speak on various aspects of popular culture in HK including pop music, local movies and cultural studies
Details of GE Consolidation Course

**Course Structure / Assessments**

- **Compulsory Course (3 cps)**

- **Mass Lectures**
  - Students are required to attend a couple of mass lectures (or equivalent) at the beginning of the course to acquire skills for reflective thinking and writing

- **Study Groups**
  - Students are required to meet with their course supervisor and their fellow group-members (as critical friends) in consultation sessions for reflective writing and preparing their individual ePortfolio

- **Assessment**
  - Complete reflective entries of self-reflection on class meetings, sharing, discussions and ePortfolio construction as well as critical feedback on peer study group members’ construction of ePortfolio and present and submit their ePortfolio at the end of the course
Implementation of the GECC

Support to Staff:

1. **Communication plan** – formulated a detailed communication plan with timeline and action parties to keep in touch with students/programmes staff by various channels

2. **Professional Staff Development Workshops** -- for current and potential GECC supervisions, introducing the role of supervisors, and marking trial GECC assessment items

3. **Monthly GECC supervisors meeting** -- offer support for supervisors and discuss insights and issues from the learning & teaching process. Crucial for the General Education Office to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of GECC materials teaching approaches, students’ reactions as well as logistic aspects. Insights received are taken into the planning of the GECC for 2015/16.
Implementation of the GECC

• Support to Students:
  1. **Mass Awareness lecture** – introducing students the course summary, Course Intended Learning Outcomes, main assessment task (ie., e-Portfolio) and preparatory actions

  2. **Workshop on ePortfolio/eJournal** – What is ePortfolio, why ePortfolio, How to build, Support & Resources
The End

Thank You