LEE WOO SING COLLEGE

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

First Term of 2014-2015

GEWS 2060 Nature as Art and Science: Biodiversity, Photography and Painting

“We are drowning in information, while starving in wisdom. The world henceforth will be run by synthesizers, people able to put together the right information at the right time, think critically about it, and made important choices wisely.”
- E.O. Wilson, Pulitzer Prize Winner, author, biology professor at Harvard University

Meeting Time: 2:30 pm – 4:15 pm (every Wednesday)
Meeting Place: WS1_LG103 Anthony T.Y. Wu Seminar Room
Course Instructor: George C.K. Jor (E-mail: georgejor@cuhk.edu.hk)
Office: General Office, 1/F, South Block, LWS College
Duration: 2 hours a week for 13 weeks (Consultation by e-mail appointment)
Categorization: Elective College General Education Course (2 credits)
Medium of instruction: English in accordance with the CGE course requirements

Course Description:
This course aims to introduce the natural charms, diversity of flora and fauna of Hong Kong and neighbouring regions. It is specially designed for Year 2 students. The goal is to raise participants’ awareness of the hidden beauty of nature and its biodiversity. Coursework includes lectures, individual blogging, group work, projects, field trips, oral interpretation, presentations and quizzes. Students will learn to appreciate biodiversity and ecology through guided tree walks, bird watching, butterfly photography, painting and other combined expressions of art and science. No prior training in photography or painting is required, but a sense of wonder and passionate curiosity in biodiversity are essential.

Assessment:
1. Active participation in lectures and written feedback on the spot 20%
2. Three field trips, short oral reports, and written responses 30%
3. A species identification and photography exercise 10%
4. Oral presentations of findings 10%
5. Short quizzes and a group proposal 30%

Sites for Field Trips
1. Campus tree walk and tree exhibition (CUHK)
2. Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
3. AFCD Lions Nature Education Centre at Tsiu Hang Special Area, Sai Kung (16-hectare) with five exhibition halls and some outdoor features zones

Guest Speakers/Field Trip Leader(s)
1. A senior conservation officer of AFCD
2. A UK award-winning botanical illustrator
3. A multimedia creative director
4. A plant specialist

Course Requirements:
1. Active participation is required in class. Paying attention and taking part in field trips are compulsory and will be counted as the fulfilment of the course requirements
2. Individual work and group work are required. Course participants are required to take part in an eLearning forum and other assigned online search activities. There will be group projects in which students are required to work in groups of three or four to complete a joint research proposal. Originality, teamwork, and a strong sense of responsibility will be valued as assets in the course.

3. End-products (images and texts) created in the course might be exhibited in class. There will be acknowledgement with a statement of informed consent for all participants of the course.

4. Participation in the field trips is a necessary but insufficient condition for scoring 30% of the course grade. There will be differentiation exercises on the spot and follow-up oral reports and written responses after each field trip.

**Academic Honesty Guidelines**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic honesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic honesty/).

**Schedule of the Course GEW2060 (subject to fine-tuning depending on guest speakers’ availability)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Overview: Nature as Art and Science: an experiential approach</td>
<td>Course orientation, a video show and an introduction to “CU Tree” and “CU Birds”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Topic 1 Trees of Hong Kong: Identification and Protection</td>
<td>Field Trip #1 Guided Tree Walk on campus on 10 Sept. 2014.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>17/9</td>
<td>Topic 2 Butterflies of Hong Kong</td>
<td>Dialogue with a butterfly photographer Mr. John Tse</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>24/9</td>
<td>Topic 3 An ecological experience of biodiversity in Hong Kong</td>
<td>Field Trip #2 on 4 October (Sat) led by Mr. MK Ng, plant specialist and Mr. John Tse, to Lions Nature Education Centre, Sai Kung</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>National Holiday</td>
<td>Self-directed Learning</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>8/10</td>
<td>Topic 4 Creative photography and painting workshop</td>
<td>Dialogue with Ms. Ho Po Man, multi-media creative director</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>15/10</td>
<td>Topic 5 Flower painting</td>
<td>Dialogue with Mrs. Sally Bunker, botanical illustrator</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>22/10</td>
<td>Topic 6 Birds of Hong Kong</td>
<td>Bird watching on campus</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>29/10</td>
<td>Topic 7 Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Hong Kong (HKBSAP)</td>
<td>Meeting with guest speaker Mr. Simon Chan Learning about Hong Kong’s first BSAP</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>Group work on project preparation No lesson</td>
<td>Field Trip #3 on 8 Nov. 2014 to Tai Po Kau led by Mr. MK Ng</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>Project preparation</td>
<td>Group work</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>19/11</td>
<td>Collective Sharing</td>
<td>Project Presentations</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>26/11</td>
<td>Course Evaluation</td>
<td>Project Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Course Evaluation</td>
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**References:**

1. AFCD. Hong Kong Biodiversity Database Online  

2. Hong Kong Herbarium (2012). *Checklist of Hong Kong Plants*. Hong Kong: Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

   http://resources.edb.gov.hk/~trees2/main_eng.htm
5. CU Tree Project http://www.greeneducationcuhk.net (Apps “CU Trees” and “CU Birds”.)
10. 香港觀鳥會 市區公園常見植物圖片集
12. Hong Kong Tree Society 樹木谷 http://www.hktree.com/
20. Marcuse, Gary (2011). Waking the Green Tiger (喚醒綠色虎): The Rise of A Green Movement in China. Canada: Face to Face Media. (This is a 78-minute documentary on the controversy of saving the Tiger Leaping Gorge and stopping a dam at Nu River, Yunnan.)
24. AFCD Lions Nature Education Centre
   http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/
http://www.civic-exchange.org/wp/201212bsap_en/
28. RTHK documentaries “Ocean Business” (海底交易)
   http://programme.rthk.hk/rthk/tv/programme.php?name=tv/oceanbusiness