

## **HBC207 Why Read?**

**Level:** 2

**Credit Units:** 5 Credit Units

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Presentation Pattern:** EVERY REGULAR SEMESTER

### **Synopsis:**

HBC207 Why Read? traces the evolution of reading as an essential activity throughout the history of mankind. While the vehicle of information sharing may have evolved from cave paintings to handwritten manuscripts and from books to social media, much still rests on one's ability to read in order for ideas to be communicated. This has remained unchanged through time. The course not only introduces students to the importance of reading in everyday life, it also seeks to show students how reading can bring about positive or negative consequences. Through the act of reading influential books, e.g., religious texts, the Communist Manifesto, etc we can be socialised to be good members of society or be radicalised to do unimaginable acts, and history is replete with examples. Lastly, reading – like exercise – can also have health benefits. Over the course of six weeks, students will come to appreciate that reading is a skill that is not only pertinent to the individual, but also to the community and society.

### **Topics:**

- Why Read?
- Reading & Human Society
- What Happens When One Reads?
- Reading as Socialisation (1): Shaping How We Behave
- Reading as Socialisation (2): Cultural Transmission
- Reading as Communication (1): Propaganda
- Reading as Communication (2): Radicalisation
- Reading for Mobilisation (1): Social Movements
- Reading for Mobilisation (2): Political Movements
- Reading & Health (1): Longer Life Expectancy
- Reading & Health (2): Social Isolation
- Reading & Industry 4.0
- The Future of Reading as an Activity

### **Textbooks:**

Wild Grass (Bilingual Series in Modern Chinese Literature) 2003 Xun Lu The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press  
ISBN-13: 9789629961244

Fahrenheit 451: 60th Anniversary Edition 2013 Neil Gaiman Simon & Schuster  
ISBN-13: 9780007496969

HBC207 Course Guide  
ISBN-13: AC-0094

HBC207 iSG  
ISBN-13: SG-1839

Stranger to Myself. 2017 MD Sharif Uddin Landmark Books  
ISBN-13: 9789814189774

The Goddess in the Living Room. 2014 Latha, Epigram Books  
ISBN-13: 9789814615150

**Learning Outcome:**

- Recognise the pertinence of reading as a skill in everyday life.
- Identify reading as a tool for positive and negative change.
- Discuss why reading will continue to be relevant despite social and technological changes.
- Describe how reading can shape one's outlook, attitudes and behaviour.
- Present the benefits of reading from a behavioural science perspective.
- Show that reading is a social skill that can have both positive and negative consequences on society at large.

**Assessment Strategies - Regular Semester (Evening Class):**

<b>Components</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weightage Allocation (%)</b>
Overall Continuous Assessment	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	50
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 2	40
	PARTICIPATION 1	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

\*The information listed is subject to review and change.