



Case Example from HKUST

Subject area: Humanities

Course title(s):

China in the Foreigner's Eyes

Identity Goes Global: From Border Crossing to Boundary Remaking

Course code(s):

HUMA 5470

HUMA 2280

Through tailor-made titles embedded with global and cross-cultural dimensions, the courses in the first place attract both local and international students, enriching the diversity of the student population. The recommended readings, case studies and stories adopted from a wide range of East Asian sources also solicit interest among those who are culturally sensitive. In terms of leveraging student diversity, students are required to form groups with those who are from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds for in-class discussion and the end-of-course project. It is observed that there are fruitful cross-cultural discussions over some controversial topics, such as Sino-Hong Kong conflict, among both active and passive learners. The teacher also explicitly communicates that students should mutually respect each other's freedom of speech so that there is safe environment for genuine interaction. Students are also advised to form interdisciplinary groups if cultural diversity in the classroom is not obvious. All these strategies are designed to help students not only take into account multiple perspectives when analysing an issue but also develop a sense of empathy through considering how and why others' views differ from their own.



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Cite this item:

CoP – ITL. (2018, April). *Case example of Prof. May-yi Shaw*. Retrieved from <https://www.cetl.hku.hk/cop-itl/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ProfMayyiShaw.pdf>.