

## Students' comments

### 2016

It was an amazing course with plenty of fascinating thoughts. Very fruitful learning experience for me!

Year 1, Business Administration

From my perspective, this course is useful to almost all the student in this university, not only for the facts taught in class, but more importantly for the logic and reasoning that eventually led us to the facts. From these reasonings and logics, you showed me how by combining the observational facts and simple logic we can reach at those magnificent achievements. All in all, this was the first time that I realized the power and importance of scientific methods. Hence, I have to say that I really enjoyed your course and I wish to let you know how grateful I am now.

Year 2, Computer Science, Engineering

The discussion in lectures does not stop in the superficial level ( which I think is the delivery of knowledge) but inspires us to reflect the development of human civilization. In my opinion, such courses are absolutely necessary in university to teach students not only how to learn but also how to think.

Year 3, Ecology, Science

I would like to appreciate the contents of the course that is very inspiring. I have studied physics and astronomy before but I used to focus on the result of the theories and accept some taught theories without really think about how to come up with the theories. Therefore, this course let me realize the nature of science which I have been ignored before in the HKDSE syllabus and I start to think more scientifically not only the scientific theories but also every phenomenon happening in society.

Year 1, Architecture

The most important thing I have learned is to view things from a different perspective. After taking a new perspective, it is quite interesting and amazing to know that I have missed out so many things.

Year 1, Engineering

This course makes me to reconsider my aims and goals towards my life.

Year 1, Actuarial science

I am an Arts student majoring in Chinese and Chinese history. This course is really eye-opening for me. The course does not present facts, but shows the process of science throughout history. It is very inspiring and interesting to me.

Year 2, Arts

### 2015

I think this course is different from other common core courses I have taken before in the way that it is interesting and philosophically inspiring. Before taking this course, I have never thought of questions like "what is our place in the universe". I also

had zero knowledge on how mankind reached the modern understanding of our universe. This course broadened my horizon by offering in-depth discussion on the above topics.

Furthermore, although I had taken some science courses in secondary school, this course was the first one to make me appreciate the beauty of science (the scientific method, universal laws, etc.).

Year 1, Actuarial Science

The course is really instructive and more importantly, it explains science in such a clear and interesting manner, especially for a student who does not know much about physics like me. Thank you so much for designing the course. And I really appreciate all the other lecturer and tutors' work and support.

I think the course contents are well designed and structured to accommodate students with different levels of scientific knowledge. Lectures are inspiring and interesting. I believe the key takeaway of this course, which is a scientific viewpoint and the ability to appreciate the beauty of science and scientific research, will have a far-reaching influence on our mindsets.

Year 3, Actuarial Science

I have made lots of efforts for this course because CCST9012 is really excellent. The course materials, lectures and readings are so interesting. Thinking about the universe from perspectives of both ancient and modern people is fantastic. As a Social Sciences student with interests in Philosophy, I think this course is pretty attractive. This course not only arouses my interests in Astronomy, but also it makes me critically reflect on the social world, the society.

Year 2, Social Science

It has been a wonderful experience enrolling in this course.

As a science student, the course CCST9012 has offered me a lot of valuable lessons from the historical development of astronomy. I have also decided to share the things I learned from the course with my family and friends in this summer as I believe these ideas can broaden their perspectives and inspire them to think differently about our existence in this universe.

Year 2, Science

I really want to thank you for the rich and illuminating lectures given by you in the first half of this semester! My horizon was broadened in both the field of astronomy and that of history. My ability of critical thinking was improved as well.

Year 1, Engineering

## 2013

The most important thing I learned isn't to do with our insignificance or beauty as being made up of "star dust". Rather, it is an understanding of the history of thought through the trials and tribulations of the select few who have stood their ground and pioneered human thought. It is the scientific method, the diligence, and the perseverance of the noble men and women who did not content themselves with what they were told, but asked for more.

The depth and beauty of all that ancient men uncovered with only rudimentary tools and observations will never leave me.

Year 1, Law

This course has taught me to do something meaningful with my life.

Year 3, Accounting and Finance

As a social science student, studying the “philosophical shifts” in the course allows me to question more about how our society or social norms are created and formed to what it is today.

Year 1, Social Sciences

The course is very intellectually inspiring .....it is important for us to learn how people in the past think and how they made mistakes in their work.

Year 1, Engineering

I realized how much I have been influenced by this course ..... the biggest thing I have concerned about before this course was my life, but this course has made me think about things that are much greater in time and scale – the size of the universe, the beginning of time, and the end of the Earth.

Year 1, Science

## 2012

This course had given me many thought provoking questions at the end of each chapter and in tutorials, which lets me think outside the box, that is, to not be stuck in interpreting issues in only one perspective. Moreover, this course has shown me that it is easy to be misled to a wrong perspective as seen from how our perspective of the universe now and from ancient times has changed so drastically, which is why we must be open minded, ready to accept changes and not be stuck in only one way of thinking, so as to innovate.

Year 1, Engineering

This course successfully demonstrates to us the complexities and interconnectedness of various issues in daily lives. This is achieved by the repeated establishments and breakdowns of people’s beliefs (e.g. Earth as universe’s centre, Milky Way as the only galaxy in universe, static universe), which allows us to see the great complexity of science and our society. This makes me understand things in our daily lives aren’t that simple as we believe, and we should always question everything, even those old, apparently unbreakable beliefs.

Year 1, Medicine (MBBS)

This course helps us to appreciate our own culture, and the interrelationship among cultures.

Year 1, Science

This course is really a combination of knowledge of astronomy, physics, biology, history, philosophy, anthropology and so on. It broadens my horizon to many scientific and humanity fields.

Year 1, Engineering

The course inspired me that different conclusions can be drawn from the same reality from different perspectives.

Year 3, Science

This course taught me that science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge. And there is nothing absolute.

Year 1, Science

This course allows students to reject their intuition like the Earth is stationary and to rely on observation and theories. It is very important in any academic field to have critical thinking. The course also gives me analyzing ability of unfamiliar situation with basic principles. It makes studying not limited by reciting but understanding should come first. It also allows me to think more carefully and not to miss any details in my future work just like the astronomers. Finally, it taught me that we should have the spirit like the astronomers and scientists that we should not give up easily and we should work for truth and dreams.

Year 1, Medicine (MBBS)

This course doesn't encourage students to remember the facts but asking the reason behind in daily events. This can help us to develop a critical thinking mind.

Year 1, Science

## 2011

I have attended the course "Human's place of the universe" this semester. I have to say that this is a course one really could learn something. Though there are assignments nearly every week and lab reports to be completed, it is rewarding. Through the learning, I get to know more about how science develops. It is a fascinating journey seeing in the perspective of the ancients, the origin of our human mind. One of the highlight is the inspiration through some sentences or contents in the lectures or the tutorials, something concerning science, truth, philosophy. Importantly, it makes me think. It gives me new perspectives of the familiar issues.

Year 1, Business & Economics

## Comments from past students

I do think the course has inspired me in my daily lives, not only in the aspect of astronomy knowledge, but also in the aspect of critical thinking and combination of science with philosophy and history. Prof. Kwok is a very passionate scholar.

Year 3, Engineering, (Year 1 when taking the course in 2012)

The course made me more aware of the fact that the process of knowledge acquisition is not linear and straight-forward, but rather, the process sometimes might go in circles, go backwards, or take an abrupt turn with paradigm shifts. Such an understanding is applicable to any scientific (or even humanities field).

Year 3, Social Science, (Year 1 when taking the course in 2012)

I am a BSc student majoring in Risk Management. Intuitively the course materials in CCST9012 has nothing to do with my major course at all, but I still find the course useful as it has helped me to develop better reading and logical thinking skills. For example, in attempting the assignment questions, we had to digest the reading materials from Sleepwalkers, and to summarize and/or criticize on the viewpoints raised in the reading passage. This required a clear mind, logical sense in making valid arguments, as well as the ability to read and synthesize reading materials in an efficient yet accurate manner. These skills have been very useful in my subsequent studies in the university, and also in my daily life as well, as I am more capable of thinking in a more critical and objective way.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course when I was studying the course 2 years ago, and it was one of the most meaningful courses I have taken in the past three years in HKU.

Year 3, Science, (Year 1 when taking the course in 2012)