

**HUMA2400 Approaches to Humanities in China Studies:
Research Methods and the Humanities of Love, Hatred, Life and Death**

I. Instructors

Philosophy: Professor Eric Nelson (eric.nelson@ust.hk)
History: Professor Billy So (billyso@ust.hk)
Art History: Professor Flora Fu (hmltfu@ust.hk)
TA: Lai Wan Yin Dorothy (wylaiaf@connect.ust.hk)

II. Class Schedule

2 February – 9 March 2018: LTK
12 March – 6 April 2018: Room 4334 (Lift 3)
9 April – 7 May 2018: LTK

- Monday 15:00-16:20
- Friday 10:30-11:50

Details of the Class Schedule:

Module	Dates
Course Introduction (So) at LTK	Friday Feb 2
Philosophy module (Nelson) at LTK	Monday Feb 5; Friday Feb 9; Monday Feb 12; Friday Feb 16; Monday Feb 19; Friday Feb 23; Monday Feb 26; Friday Mar 2; Monday Mar 5; Friday Mar 9 (8 sessions)
History module (So) at Rm 4334 (Lift 3)	Monday Mar 12; Friday Mar 16; Monday Mar 19; Friday Mar 23; Monday Mar 26; Friday Mar 30; Monday Apr 2; Friday Apr 6 (6 sessions)
Arts module (Fu) at LTK	Monday Apr 9; Friday Apr 13; Monday Apr 16; Friday Apr 20; Monday Apr 23; Friday Apr 27; Monday Apr 30; Friday May 4 (8 sessions)
Concluding session (So) at LTK	Monday May 7

III. Course Description

This course is designed to train students with the skills of academic research in the field of humanities in general, but with special reference to anthropology, arts/art history, history, linguistics, literature, and philosophy of China, in particular. Students' attention will be

drawn to the issues of research methods in each discipline, such as (1) What constitute data or source materials? (2) How and where to collect them? (3) How data/ source materials are processed and analyzed? (4) What research questions are asked? (5) What conceptual and theoretical approaches are applied? By focusing on the common human experiences of love, hatred, life and death, and how they are studied in each discipline, students will be guided to compare various discipline-based distinctive approaches to humanities in China Studies.

There are six modules corresponding to the six disciplinary areas. They are e divided into two groups: Group (1) Anthropology, Linguistics and Literature; and Group (2) Philosophy, History, and Arts/Art History. The two groups will be covered alternatively in the course, normally offered in the spring semester of each academic year.

In Spring 2018, the second group of modules in Philosophy, History, and Arts will be covered.

English is the teaching medium of the course.

IV. Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Comprehend the basic research methods of philosophy, history, and art history;
2. Understand human endeavors and appreciate their creative expressions through the different approaches to Humanities in China studies;
3. Develop cultural sensitivity toward human experiences and conditions;
4. Write a research proposal used in application for admission to a master's program

V. Course Requirements

Requirements consist of (a) participating at lectures, tutorials and in-class group task/discussion; (b) studying the required readings, and viewing videoed lectures before class as assigned; (c) taking 3 quizzes; and (d) submitting a research proposal.

Regarding (d), students are required to write a research proposal on any topic in one of the three disciplines (History, Philosophy, and Art History) the student is assumed to do some research on. Students will draw lots to decide which of the three disciplines their topic should build upon. This proposal should be treated as an application for admission to a master's program. A guide to the preparation for the proposal is available from on the HUMA course website and in the Canvas site of this course.

The due date of the research proposal depends on which disciplines. See ***Guide to Research Proposal***. It must be submitted by uploading to the course Canvas site. Late submission will not be marked.

VI. Grading

Quizzes for three modules:	25 marks x 3 = 75 marks
Participation in lectures and tutorials:	5 marks
Research proposal:	20 marks
Total:	100 marks

VII. Topics and Readings

1. Course Introduction (Prof Billy So)

Friday Feb 2

Introduction of the instructors, the syllabus, and the requirements; explanation of the meaning of “approach” and its application to humanities in China Studies, in particular philosophy, history, and arts; explanation of the unifying themes of Love, Hatred, and Life and Death (LHLD) and their relationship with the fundamental values of Truth, Good, and Beauty. Also, some briefing on the assignment of research proposal.

2. Module of Philosophy (Prof Eric Nelson)

Monday Feb 5

Topic: Introduction to Philosophical Research and Human Nature and the Good I

1. Mengzi and Gaozi – Does ethics violate human nature?

Required Readings: *Mencius*, Gaozi II

Friday Feb 9

Topic: Human Nature and the Good II

2. Mengzi and Xunzi – Is human nature good or bad?

Required Readings: *Mencius*, Gaozi I, and *Xunzi*, “Human Nature is bad”

Monday Feb 12

Topic: Suffering, Death, and the Emotions I

1. Zhuangzi – Nourishing Life and Accepting Death

Required Readings: Selections from *Zhuangzi*

Public Holidays: Friday Feb 16; Monday Feb 19

Friday Feb 23

Topic: Suffering, Death, and the Emotions II

2. The Buddha – Suffering, Attachment, and Awakening

Required Readings: *The Greater Discourse on the Destruction of Craving*
(*Mahatanhasankhaya Sutta*)

Monday Feb 26

Topic: Suffering, Death, and the Emotions III

3. The Korean Debate between Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism (Jeong Dojoen and Gihwa)

Required Readings: Selections from *Korea's Great Buddhist-Confucian Debate: The Treatises of Chong Tojon (Sambong) and Hamho Tuktong (Kihwa)* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2015).

Recommended Readings: Eric S. Nelson, "Suffering, Evil, and the Emotions: A Joseon Debate between Neo-Confucianism and Buddhism," *International Journal of Korean Studies* 16 (201), pp. 447-462.

Friday Mar 2

Topic: Intercultural Philosophy I

Leibniz and the Enlightenment Reception of Chinese Philosophy

Required Readings: Leibniz, preface to the *Novissima Sinica* (1697)

Recommended Readings: Eric S. Nelson, "Leibniz and the Political Theology of the Chinese," in Wenchao Li (ed.), *Leibniz and the European Encounters with China: 300 Years of Discours sur la théologie naturelle des Chinois* (Stuttgart: Studia Leibnitiana, 2017).

Monday Mar 5

Topic: Intercultural Philosophy II

The New Confucian Manifesto: Can there be a Modern Confucianism?

Required Readings: Zhang Junmai, Tang Junyi, Mou Zongsan, and Xu Fuguan, "A Manifesto for a Re-appraisal of Sinology and Reconstruction of Chinese Culture" (为中国文化敬告世界人士宣言)

Friday Mar 9

Philosophy Module Quiz

3. Module of History (Prof Billy So)

This module uses a blended learning and teaching mode combining online teaching and classroom small group activities where students will play the role of active learner. Videoed lectures and their PPTs will be uploaded to the Canvas course site at least three weeks before the designated class. Flipped classroom activities will take place in L1 (Mar 12), L2 (Mar 16), L3 (Mar 19), and L4 (Mar 23). These activities, required readings, and the lectures are important materials for the History Module Quiz.

Monday Mar 12 (L1) and Friday Mar 16 (L2)

Topic for L1 and L2: Historical narrative as an approach to understanding history and how to study the historical truth of self-interest and trust in the contexts of profit and politics.

Students need to view videoed lectures VL1 and VL2 before Mar 12 (L1) lecture.

Required Readings: (1) either “Narrative” in Alun Munslow (ed.), *Routledge Companion to Historical Studies*. 2nd ed. (London: Routledge, 2006), pp.180-183; or “The Historical Narrative” in Peter Munz (ed.), *Companion to Historiography* (London: Routledge, 1997), pp.851-872; and

(2) Billy K. L. So, *Prosperity, Region, and Institutions in Maritime China: The South Fukien Pattern, 946-1368* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U Press, 2000), chap. 11.

Recommended Reading: (1) Alun Munslow, *Narrative and History* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).[not available at HKUST library]

(2) Billy K. L. So, *Prosperity, Region, and Institutions in Maritime China: The South Fukien Pattern, 946-1368* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U Press, 2000). Whole book.

Monday Mar 19 (L3) and Friday Mar 23 (L4)

Topic for L3 and L4: How to study the historical truth of hatred and conflict in social, racial, economic, and political contexts.

Students need to view videoed lecture VL3 before Mar 19 (L3) lecture.

Required Reading: (1) Billy K. L. So, *Prosperity, Region, and Institutions in Maritime China: The South Fukien Pattern, 946-1368* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U Pres, 2000), chaps.4-5; and

(2) Billy K. L. So and Albert S. Lee, “Legalization of Chinese Corporation, 1904-1929: Innovation and Continuity in Rules and Legislation,” in Billy K. L. So and Ramon H. Myers eds., *Treaty-port Economy in Modern China: Empirical Studies of Institutional Change and Economic Performance* (Berkeley, CA: UC Berkeley, 2011), pp.185-210.

Recommended Reading: Billy K. L. So, *Prosperity, Region, and Institutions in Maritime China: The South Fukien Pattern, 946-136* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U Press, 2000).

Monday Mar 26 (L5)

Topic for L5: How to study justice and truth in life-and-death matters in the Chinese past.

Required Reading: Billy K. L. So, "Sung Criminal Justice and the Modern Implication of Chinese Legal Tradition," in Liu Tseng-kuei (ed.), *Papers from the Third International Conference on Sinology, History Section: Law and Custom* (Taipei: Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, 2002), pp.63-107.

Recommended Reading: William Alford, "Of Arsenic and Old Laws: Looking Anew at Criminal Justice in Late Imperial China." *California Law Review* 72.6 (1984).

Public Holidays: **Friday Mar 30; Monday Apr 2**

Friday Apr 6

History Module Rounding Up and Quiz

4. Module of Arts (Prof Flora Fu)

April 9 (Mon)

Topic: What is Art Historical Research?

April 13 (Fri)

Topic: Representing Life and Death I

Required Reading: Jan Stuart, and Evelyn Rawski, *Worshipping the Ancestors: Chinese Commemorative Portraits* (Washington, DC and Stanford, CA: Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in association with Stanford University Press, 2001), chaps 2-3.

April 16 (Mon)

Topic: Representing Life and Death II

Required Reading: Katherine R Tsiang, "Visualizing the Devine in Medieval China," in Martin J. Powers and Katherine R. Tsiang (eds.), *A Companion to Chinese Art (Blackwell Companions to Art History)* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2015),

pp. 158-176.

April 20 (Fri)

Topic: Picturing Love and Beauty I

Required Reading: James Cahill, “*Meiren Hua: Paintings of Beautiful Women in China*,” in *Beauty Revealed: Images of Women in Qing Dynasty Chinese Painting* (Berkeley, CA: University of California, Berkeley Art Museum, 2014), pp. 9-22.

April 23 (Mon)

Topic: Picturing Love and Beauty II

Required Reading: Peter C. Sturman, “Landscape,” in Martin J. Powers and Katherine R. Tsiang (eds.), *A Companion to Chinese Art (Blackwell Companions to Art History)* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2015), pp. 177-194.

April 27 (Fri)

Topic: Visualizing Hatred and Negative Emotions I:

Required Reading: Yeewan Koon, *A Defiant Brush: Su Renshan and the Politics of Painting in Early 19th-Century Guangdong* (Honolulu, HA: Hawai’i University Press, 2014), chap 1.

April 30 (Mon)

Topic: Visualizing Hatred and Negative Emotions II:

Required Reading: Wu Hung, “War Ruins: Conquering and Surviving,” in Wu Hung, *A Story of Ruins: Presence and Absence in Chinese Art and Visual Culture* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012), pp. 121-155.

May 4 (Fri)

Arts Module Quiz

5. Concluding session (Prof Billy So)

May 7 (Mon)