HKUST Division of Humanities

Spring 2023

HUMA2400 Approaches to Humanities in China Studies:
Research Methods and the Humanities of Love, Hatred, Life and Death
愛、恨、生、死與人文學研究方法

Tuesday & Thursday 12:00-13:20

Rm 4502

Instructors and TA

Instructors

Discipline	Professor	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hrs
Anthropology	CHEUNG Siu-woo 張兆和	hmcheung@ust.hk	23587763	3340	Tue & Thur 14:30 – 16:00
Linguistics	QIN Zhen 秦震	hmzqin@ust.hk	23587797	3368	Wed 14:30-16:30
Literature	MA Xiaolu 馬筱璐	hmxlma@ust.hk	23588921	3377	Fri 14:00 -17:00

Teaching Assistant

Discipline	TA	Email	Room	Office Hrs
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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, history, linguistics, literature, and philosophy of China, in particular. The course will pay attention to the following few key questions:

- What constitute data and source materials?
- How and where to collect them?
- How data and source materials are processed and analysed?
- What research questions are asked?
- 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 the distinctive approaches to humanities in China Studies.

Three modules, Anthropology, Linguistics and Literature, will be covered in this course this semester.

Intended Learning Outcomes

 On completion of this course, students should be able to

- Comprehend the basic research methods of particular disciplines in Humanities;
- Understand human endeavours and appreciate their creative expressions; through the different approaches to Humanities in China studies;
- Develop cultural sensitivity toward human experiences and conditions;
- Write a research proposal with a basic framework related to research methods

Course Assessment & Requirements

- 3 module reports (30 marks x 3)   90 marks
- Participation   10 marks
- **Total: 100 marks**

Students are required to work on a module report at the end of each module. The three reports may be designed in different formats, and please follow the instructors' instructions for your preparation.

0.5 mark will be deducted for one absence starting from the third absence in each module.

Class Schedule

Module	Dates
Anthropology (8 sessions)	Feb. 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 Mar. 2, 7
Linguistics (8 sessions)	Mar. 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 Apr 4
Literature (8 sessions)	Apr. 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 May 2, 4, 9

1. Course introduction

Feb 7 Tue

- Explain the syllabus
- Major components of research method

2) Module of Anthropology

Feb 9 Thur

Topic: Anthropological study of emotion and relationships in cultural institution and holistic contexts

- Required Readings:

Peoples, James and Garrick Bailey. 2012. Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (9th ed.). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (Chapter 2: Culture; Chapter 5: Methods of Investigation).

Feb 14 Tue

Topic: Anthropological Fieldwork: Romantic Love and Valentine's Day participant-observation

- Required Readings:

Whyte, William Foote. 1994. "Learning to be a Participant Observer." In his Participation Observer: An Autobiography, pp. 67-84. Ithaca: ILR Press.

Peoples, James and Garrick Bailey. 2012. Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (International Edition) (9th ed.). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (Chapter 10: Enculturation and the Life Course)

Yan, Yunxiang. 2002. "Courtship, Love and Premarital Sex in a North China Village." The China Journal, 48:29-53.

Feb 16 Thur

Topic: Anthropological research: The practice of research proposal

- Reference:

The Research Proposal Form

Yan, Yunxiang. 2002. "Courtship, Love and Premarital Sex in a North China Village." The China Journal, 48:29-53.

- Assignment 1: (Due date for submission—Mar 2)

Simulating a research proposal

Feb 21 Tue

Topic: Reproduction and birth in Chinese society

- Required Readings:

Peoples, James and Garrick Bailey. 2012. Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (International Edition) (9th ed.). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (Chapter 8: Marriage and Families, Chapter 9: Kinship and Descent)

Margery Wolf. 1972. "Chapter 3: Uterine Families and the Women's Community." In Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan, pp. 32-41. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.

Topley, Marjorie. 1975. "Marriage Resistance in Rural Kwangtung." In Women in Chinese Society, Margery Wolf and Roxanne Witke, eds., pp. 67-88. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Feb 23 Thur

Topic: Death and funeral rituals in Chinese society

- Required Readings:

Watson, James L. 1982. "Of Flesh and Bones: The Management of Death pollution in Cantonese Society." In Death and the Regeneration of Life, eds. Maurice Bloch & Jonathan Parry. London: Cambridge University Press, pp. 155-86.

Watson, Rubie S. 1988. "Remembering the Dead: Graves and Politics in Southeastern China." In Death Ritual in Late Imperial and Modern China, eds. James Watson and Evelyn Rawski. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 203-227.

Feb 28 Tue

Topic: Headhunting: Cross-cultural Understanding of Hatred and Sorrow

- Required Readings:

Fiskesjö, Magnus. 2021. Stories from an ancient land : perspectives on Wa history and culture. New York, New York : Berghahn Books. (Chapter 6: War, Headhunting, and the Erasure of Wa History, pp. 142-174)

Mar 2 Thur

Topic: Hungsheng Festival in Kaosai , Saikung– Pacifying hungry ghosts and Community regeneration

- Required Readings:

Barbara E. Ward. 1965. "Varieties of the Conscious Model: The Fishermen of South China." In Michael Banton, ed., The Relevance of Models for Social Anthropology, pp. 113-138. London: Tavistock Publications.

- Fieldtrip:

Hungsheng Festival in Kaosai, Saikung, Mar 4 evening (6:00pm – 12:00pm) or Mar 5 morning (8:30am-1:30pm)

Mar 7 Tue

Topic: Kaosai Hungshing Festival fieldtrip worksheet discussion

- Assignment 2: (Due date Mar 21)

Kaosai Hungshing Festival fieldtrip worksheet

3) **Module of Linguistics**

Mar 09, 14

- **Topic 1: Introduction to the Chinese Language**
- **Required Readings：**

DeFrancis, J. (1984). *The Chinese language — fact and fantasy.* Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press. Chapter 3, pp.53-pp.66.

Norman, J. (1988). *Chinese.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1, pp.1-pp.22.

March 16, 21

- **Topic 2: A Topic about Chinese Tones**
- **Required Readings:**

Lin, Yen-Hwei. 2007. "Tone", The *Sounds of Chinese,* Cambridge University Press. Chapter 4, pp.88-pp.102.

Wang, Y., Jongman A., and Sereno J. (2001). Dichotic perception of Mandarin tones by Chinese and American listeners. *Brian and Language* 78: 332-348.

Mar 23, 28, 30

- **Topic 3: Case Studies on Chinese Tones**
- **Required Readings:**

Wang, Y., Jongman A., and Sereno J. (1999). Training American listeners to perceive Mandarin tones. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 106, 3649-3658.

Hao, Y. C. (2012). Second language acquisition of Mandarin Chinese tones by tonal and non-tonal language speakers. *Journal of Phonetics*, *40*(2), 269–279.

Apr 04

- **Topic 4: Summary Writing Workshop and Module Conclusion**
- **No Required Readings:**
  The suggested articles in PDF are uploaded in the Canvas for students' choice.

Article Summary Due – April 18 (Tuesday)

4) Module of Literature

April 13, 18

- **Topic: What is literature?**
- **Readings:**

Mario Klarer, *An Introduction to Literary Studies* (Selected)

- **Case study:**

Lilian Lee Pik-Wah, *Green Snake*

http://big5.quanben5.com/n/qingshe_2/xiaoshuo.html

April 20, 25, 27

- **Topic: What is cinema?**
- **Readings:**

Amy Villarejo, *Film Studies: The Basics* (Selected)

- **Case study:**

Green Snake (1993)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBjycaw5ulk

May 2, 4

- **Topic: What is animation?**
- **Readings:**

Thomas Lamarre: *The Anime Machine: A Media Theory of Animation* (Selected)

- **Case study:**

White Snake (2019)

https://gimy.app/eps/22582-1-1.html

May 9

- **Topic: What is literary and cinematic research?**
- **Readings:**

Denise Chao, "The Snake in Chinese Belief"

Liang Luo, "The White Snake in Hong Kong Horror Cinema: from Horrific Tales to Crowd Pleasers"