

Spring 2024

**HUMA2400 Approaches to Humanities in China Studies:
Research Methodologies for Humanities**

Tuesday & Thursday 12:00-13:20

1409, Academic Building

I. 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	Tue & Thur 14:30 – 15:30
Literature	MA Xiaolu 馬筱璐	hmxmla@ust.hk	23588921	3377	Tue & Thur 14:30 – 15:30

Teaching Assistant

Discipline	TA	Email	Room	Office Hrs
Linguistics	LIU Kangdi 劉康迪	kliubc@connect.ust.hk	3001	Wed 14:30-15:30

II. 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:

- 1) What constitute data and source materials?
- 2) How and where to collect them?

- 3) How data and source materials are processed and analysed?
- 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 the distinctive approaches to humanities in China Studies.

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

III. 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

IV. Course Assessment & Requirements

• Module assessments (30 marks x 3)	90 marks
• Attendance	10 marks
• Total:	100 marks

Each module has its own assessments. Please follow the instructors' explanation for your preparation.

Attendance policy

You should regularly attend class and actively participate in class discussions.

- (a) 0.5 mark will be **deducted** for one absence starting from the third absence after the add/drop period. Noted that being late or leaving early (e.g., longer than 15 mins) without permission will also result in a mark deduction.
- (b) If you cannot attend class for valid reasons, you need to get **advance** permission (that is, before class) from instructors to waive absences. Explanation and **proof** documents (e.g., medical certificates, interview notification letters, etc.) are required for permission.
- (c) According to the university policy, RVC recordings will be released only to students in need. Students should not expect to get "attendance" credit by viewing recordings.

- (d) During the class, the use of electronics (e.g., laptop) is allowed **exclusively** for notetaking. Food is not recommended in class.

Assignment policy

As a general rule, **NO** late submission will be accepted for credits unless:

- (a) You got **advance** permission (before the due) from instructors.
- (b) You could not submit the assignment on the day the assignment is due because of a serious illness or emergency. You need to contact instructors with a written explanation of the situation and provide **proof** (e.g., medical certificates).
- (c) We go with “Restrict ways of using generative AI tools for assessment”. For instance, you can use generative AI tools (e.g., chatGPT) for assisting your understanding of materials. However, you are **prohibited** from using the GenAI tools to produce any content related to essay assessments (e.g., article summary).

V. Class Schedule, Topics and Readings

Introduction: Feb 1

Module	Dates
Anthropology (8 sessions)	Feb. 6, 8, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29, Mar. 21(field trip)
Linguistics (8 sessions)	Mar. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 26 Apr 9, 11
Literature (8 sessions)	Apr. 15, 18, 23, 25, 30 May 2, 7, 9

1) Course introduction

Feb 1

2) Module of Anthropology

Feb 6 Tue

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 8 Thur

Topic: Concept of Culture and Anthropological Fieldwork:

Participant-observation in Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day

- **Required Readings:**

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

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

Feb 15 Thur

Topic: Fieldwork Presentation: Hong Kong Culture in Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day

Cross-cultural Comparison: Romantic Love and Marriage

Feb 20 Tue

Topic: Descent and Lineage in Southern Chinese society

- **Required Readings:**

Jack M. Potter. 1970. "Land and Lineage in Traditional China." In *Family and Kinship in Chinese Society*, ed. Maurice Freedman. Stanford: Stanford University

Feb 22 Thur

Topic: Women's Conception and Construction of Family

- **Required Readings:**

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.

Feb 24 Sat

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 27 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)

Feb 29 Thur

Topic: Kaosai Hungshing Festival – 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.

Mar 21 Thur

Fieldtrip:

**Kaosai Hungsheng Festival Mar 21 evening (5:00pm – 12:00pm)
or Mar 5 morning (8:30am-2:30pm)**

3) Module of Linguistics

Mar 05, 07

- **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.

In-class Group Discussion 1

March 12, 14, 19

- **Topic 2: A Phonetics Topic about Chinese Tones**

- **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.

In-class Group Discussion 2

Mar 26, Apr 09

- **Topic 3: Empirical Studies on Chinese Tones**

- **Required Readings:**

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.

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.

In-class Group Discussion 3

Apr 11

- **Summary Writing Workshop and Module Conclusion**

- The suggested articles in PDF will be uploaded in the Canvas for students' choice.

Article Summary Due – 8 pm, April 30 (Tuesday)

4) Module of Literature

April 15, 18

Topic: China and India

• **Readings:**

- Gal Gvili, *Imagining India in Modern China: Literary Decolonization and the Imperial Unconscious, 1895-1962* (Selected)

Note: Gal's on-line lecture is scheduled at 8pm, April 15. An announcement will be made close to the date of lecture. There will be no class on April 16.

April 23, 25, 30

• **Topic: China and the Taiping Civil War**

• **Readings:**

- Huan Jin, *The Collapse of Heaven: The Taiping Civil War and Chinese Literature and Culture, 1850-1880* (Selected)

April 30, May 2, 7

• **Topic: China and Russia**

• **Readings:**

- Xiaolu Ma, *Transpatial Modernity: Chinese Cultural Encounters with Russia through the Prism of Japan (1880–1930)* (Selected)
- Edward Tyerman, *Internationalist Aesthetics: Imagining China in Early Soviet Culture* (Selected)

May 9

• **Topic: Lu Xun as a method**

• **Readings:**

- Wenjin Cui, *Lu Xun's Affirmative Biopolitics: Nothingness and the Power of Self-Transcendence* (Selected)

Article Summary Due – 8 pm, May 31 (Friday)