

Spring 2026

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

Tuesday 15:00-17:50

CYT G001

I. Instructors and TA

Instructors

Discipline	Professor	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hrs
Literature	MA Xiaolu 馬筱璐	hmxlma@ust.hk	23588921	3377	Tue 13:00-14:45
Linguistics	QIN Zhen Quentin 秦震	hmzqin@ust.hk	23587797	3368	Tue 13:00 – 14:45
History & Digital Humanities	CHUNG Yan Hon Michael 鍾恩瀚	hmichung@ust.hk	23587765	3357	Mon 15:00-16:15

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 and how they are studied in each discipline, students will be guided to compare the distinctive approaches to humanities in China Studies.

Three modules, History and Digital Humanities, 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 includes multiple assignments, such as discussions, presentations, reports, and summaries. Specific details for each assignment will be provided within the respective module.)

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

Module	Dates
History & Digital Humanities (4 sessions)	Feb. 3, 10, 24, Mar 3
Linguistics (4 sessions)	Mar. 10, 17, 24, 31
Literature (4 sessions)	Apr. 14, 21, 28, May 5

1) Module of History and Digital Humanities

Feb 3

- **Topic 1: Historical Sources and Citation**
- **Required Readings :**

Schrag, Z. (2021). *The Princeton Guide to Historical Research*. Princeton University Press. Pp. 103-120.

The Chicago Manual of Style Online. Notes and Bibliography: Sample Citations.
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

- **Optional Readings :**

Ssû-nien, F. 傅斯年. (1928). "The Guiding Principles of the Institute of History and Philology" (〈歷史語言研究所工作之旨趣〉). *Bulletin of the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica* 1, no. 8 (1928): 3–10.

Tutorial 1: Bibliography of primary sources

- **Assignments :**

Tutorial Exercise 1 (@4; Due date: **Feb 9**)

Feb 10

- **Topic 2: Source Criticism**

- **Required Readings :**

Schrag, Z. (2021). *The Princeton Guide to Historical Research*. Princeton University Press. Pp. 208-226.

Tutorial 2: Source criticism of selected sources

- **Assignments :**

Tutorial Exercise 2 (@6; Due date: **Feb 23**)

Feb 24

- **Topic 3: Historiography and Book Reviews**

- **Required Readings :**

Schrag, Z. (2021). *The Princeton Guide to Historical Research*. Princeton University Press. Pp. 90-97.

Bu, L. (2015). Review of *Chinese and Americans: A shared history*, by Xu. Guoqi. *The American Historical Review*, 120(5), 1863–1864.

Tutorial 3: From source to data: Text processing with large language models

- **Assignments :**

Tutorial Exercise 3 (@4; Due date: **Mar 3**)

Book review of a history book of your own choice (@12; Due date: **Mar 17**)

Mar 3

- **Topic 4: Digital History**

- **Required Readings :**

Vierthaler, Paul. 2020. "Digital Humanities and East Asian Studies in 2020." *History Compass* 18 (11).

Tutorial 4: Fine-tuning AI models for humanities research

- **Assignments :**

Tutorial Exercise 4 (@4; Due date: **Mar 3**)

2) Module of Linguistics

Mar 10

- **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 17

- **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 24

- **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

Mar 31

- **Summary Writing Workshop and Module Conclusion**
- The suggested articles in PDF format will be uploaded to Canvas for students' choice.

Article Summary Due – 12 pm noon, April 29 (Tue)

3) Module of Literature

Apr 14

Topic: How to write a research proposal? I

Watch at home:

Lust, Caution (Ang Lee, 2007)

<https://fullxcinema.com/lust-caution-2007/>

Apr 21

Topic: Literature and cinema

Required Readings:

Lust, Caution

Apr 28

Topic: Eileen Chang's self-translation (Guest lecture)

Required Readings:

Jessica Tsui-yan Li, *Eileen Chang: The Performativity of Self-Translation* (Selected)

May 5

Topic: How to write a research proposal? II

(first round of research proposal submission due on May 4)

Second round of research proposal Due – 12 pm noon, May 24 (Sunday)