HKUST Division of Humanities

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Office Hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>CHEUNG Siu-woo 張兆和</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hmcheung@ust.hk">hmcheung@ust.hk</a></td>
<td>23587763</td>
<td>3340</td>
<td>Tue &amp; Thur 14:30 – 16:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>QIN Zhen 秦震</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hmxqin@ust.hk">hmxqin@ust.hk</a></td>
<td>23587797</td>
<td>3368</td>
<td>Tue &amp; Thur 14:30 – 15:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>MA Xiaolu 馬筱璐</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hxmmlma@ust.hk">hxmmlma@ust.hk</a></td>
<td>23588921</td>
<td>3377</td>
<td>Tue &amp; Thur 14:30 – 15:30</td>
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Teaching Assistant

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<th>Discipline</th>
<th>TA</th>
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<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>LIU Kangdi</td>
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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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Feb. 6, 8, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29, Mar. 21(field trip)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>Mar. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 26</td>
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<td>Apr 9, 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Apr. 15, 18, 23, 25, 30</td>
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<td>May 2, 7, 9</td>
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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:
Feb 8 Thur

Topic: Concept of Culture and Anthropological Fieldwork:

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

• Required Readings:


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:


Feb 22 Thur

Topic: Women’s Conception and Construction of Family

• Required Readings:

Feb 24 Sat

**Topic: Death and funeral rituals in Chinese society**

- **Required Readings:**


Feb 27 Tue

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

- **Required Readings:**


Feb 29 Thur

**Topic: Kaosai Hungshing Festival – Pacifying hungry ghosts and Community regeneration**

- **Required Readings:**


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**:

*In-class Group Discussion 1*

March 12, 14, 19

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

*In-class Group Discussion 2*

Mar 26, Apr 09

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

*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 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 2, 7

- Topic: China and the Taiping Civil War
- Readings:

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)*