

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Chinese and History
with effect from Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Research Methods for Chinese Studies

Course Code: CAH8807

Course Duration: 1 semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: R8

Medium of Instruction: Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua)

Medium of Assessment: Chinese (Both traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese are accepted)

Prerequisites: Nil
(Course Code and Title)

Precursors: Nil
(Course Code and Title)

Equivalent Courses: CAH8808 Research Methods for Chinese Studies
(Course Code and Title)

Exclusive Courses: Nil
(Course Code and Title)

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to develop research students' academic skills in carrying out independent studies on a relevant topic of their own choice. It provides good training in how to pursue advanced research in the fields of Chinese language, literature, history, philosophy, arts, culture and cultural heritage studies. Familiarising students with the major methodological approaches to research design, data collection, data mining, textual analysis and criticism, argument formation and literature review, this course will also focus on the analysis of different kinds of research materials and primary sources, as well as assess the challenges and opportunities when adopting these methods in the field of Chinese studies. In addition, research ethics will also be addressed in this course.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Identify the main issues, theories, methods and trends in the field of Chinese studies, as well as the leading scholars and their works in the field		✓		
2.	Demonstrate a good understanding of research methods including the collection and use of research materials, the analysis and criticism of written texts, and the strategies for information management and scholarly presentations			✓	
3.	Critically analyse and evaluate previous research works		✓		✓
4.	Argue the problems and constraints scholars often encounter in conducting research			✓	
5.	Apply appropriate research methods and strategies in doing research on their chosen topics		✓		✓
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.					Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5	
Seminars	Meeting and interactive discussion on special topics, research methods and materials	✓	✓				Students are required to attend 5 seminars during the semester.
Research Proposal	Analyse issues and apply methodology to potential research paper			✓	✓		
Research Paper	Criticize research works, data collection, and textual analysis in preparation for long-term thesis					✓	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.					Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5		
Continuous Assessment: 100%							
Seminar participation and discussion	✓	✓				25%	
Research Proposal			✓	✓		25%	Students are required to submit 1 research proposal.
Research Paper					✓	50%	Students are required to submit 1 research paper at the end of the semester.
Examination: -							
						100%	

Note: Both traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese are accepted. As all our faculty members are familiar with both forms of written Chinese, assessment of students' assignments is solely based on their academic standards.

5. Assessment Rubrics

Applicable to students admitted in Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Seminars participation and discussion	Preparation for discussion and presentation; demonstration of a basic knowledge of the field	Demonstrate good and critical understanding of the field and literature; providing good research strategy and literature research for a potential topic; excellent oral report	Demonstrate fairly good and general understanding of the field and literature; have a general grasp of a potential research topic; fair oral report	Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment	Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment
2. Research Proposal	Grade on content, research methodology, and potential leading to a significant paper	Demonstration of sound methodologies and scholarship of the field; potential for doing a research of originality	Demonstrate fairly good and general understanding of the field and adequate methodologies	Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment	Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment
3. Research Paper	Grade on quality of research work done, writing skills, organization, and overall contribution to the field	Good arguments, organizations and writing skills to present research findings combined with sound methodology and scholarship leading to a significant piece of scholarship	Demonstrate fairly good and general quality of research writing in organization, argument, and methodology	Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment	Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Seminars participation and discussion	Preparation for discussion and presentation; demonstration of a basic knowledge of the field	Demonstrate good and critical understanding of the field and literature; providing good research strategy and literature research for a potential topic; excellent oral report	Demonstrate fairly good and general understanding of the field and literature; have a general grasp of a potential research topic; fair oral report	General and just adequate performance in every aspect of assessment	Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment	Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment
2. Research Proposal	Grade on content, research methodology, and potential leading to a significant paper	Demonstration of sound methodologies and scholarship of the field; potential for doing a research of originality	Demonstrate fairly good and general understanding of the field and adequate methodologies	General and just adequate performance in every aspect of assessment	Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment	Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment
3. Research Paper	Grade on quality of research work done, writing skills, organization, and overall contribution to the field	Good arguments, organizations and writing skills to present research findings combined with sound methodology and scholarship leading to a significant piece of scholarship	Demonstrate fairly good and general quality of research writing in organization, argument, and methodology	General and just adequate performance in every aspect of assessment	Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment	Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment

Additional Notes:

A. Although the PhD/MPhil Programmes will be divided into two streams (Stream 1 the Chinese Module and Stream 2 the English Module) and the contents of both streams are identical, it should be noted that students, by default, should enroll in Stream 2 (the English module). Students who wish to take Stream 1 (the Chinese module) will have to fulfil the “Chinese Proficiency Requirements” as stated in **Part C** below and the Department will consider the applications on a case by case basis.

B. Justifications to use Chinese as medium of instruction and assessment

The Department of Chinese and History will enforce and abide to the University language policy. Applicants for our RD programme should meet the English standard for admission and are required to send in their research proposal in English. Nevertheless, besides English, they should also have advanced proficiency in Chinese (as stated below), since texts used to illustrate research methods are primarily written in Chinese and/or in classical literary Chinese. The methods and concepts related, such as the way to compile historical texts, can also only be expressed dynamically in Chinese.

In addition, considering that a significant number of distinguished professors (especially from mainland China and Taiwan) acting as guest speakers for the PhD/MPhil programmes will prefer to use Putonghua to conduct their talks, in order to maintain academic standard and respect their scholarly decision, it is well-justified to adopt Chinese to be the medium of instruction and assessment for some courses.

C. Chinese Proficiency Requirements

Students who enrol in Stream 1 (Chinese Module) are required to hold a degree in Chinese, Chinese Literature, History, Philosophy, Archaeology or Art from any university in Mainland China or Taiwan.

Students with qualifications from a university or comparable institution outside Mainland China and Taiwan where the language of teaching or examination is not Chinese are required to obtain:

- Level 6 (a score of 210 or above) in the New Chinese Proficiency Test (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, New) (in or after 2010), in which a score of 65 or above in the Test of Written Chinese *or*
- Advanced Level (score 9 or above) in the Chinese Proficiency Test (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi) (before 2010) *or*
- Level 4 or above in listening, speaking, reading and writing in Test Of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL)

Other qualifications will be subject to the Department’s approval.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

archive, argument formation, arts, Chinese literature, cultural heritage, culture, data collection, data gathering, database, document, history, literature review, methodology, philosophy, primary sources, research design, research paradigm, review article, textual analysis, textual criticism

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

Recommended by supervisor

Online Resources

Research Guide for Chinese Studies <<http://guides.library.harvard.edu/Chinese>>

A guide to selected digital resources for conducting research in Chinese Studies

<<http://guides.lib.umich.edu/chinesestudies>>

Chinese Studies - Authoritative Research Guide

<<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/obo/page/chinese-studies>>

2.2 Additional Readings

N/A