

CAH3851: CHINESE ARCHAEOLOGY

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Chinese Archaeology

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

3851

Academic Unit

Chinese and History (CAH)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English supplemented by Chinese *

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course addresses the contributions of archaeology to, and its interactions with, Chinese history. Probed is a corpus of knowledge on key Chinese archaeological discoveries and developments in institution, method, theory and the ethos involved, and how these aspects relate to its intimate interplay with the historiography of China. These contents will be systemized in correlation to Chinese chronological developments (Prehistory to Ming); spelled out in representative regions; and exemplified in specific archaeological or historical subjects, or selected aspects. The course exposes students to this specialized field of study on past material culture; inculcates a sensibility for the significance of interdisciplinary dialogue and its creative tension; and offers them a unique set of knowledge, perspectives, as well as analytical and epistemological know-how, so that they can be more prepared and intellectually robust to think and judge on the intricate world of cultures like those of China.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify major archaeological contributions to Chinese historical studies.	20	x		
2	Demonstrate knowledge on the features and contributions of academic integration and co-effects shared and enjoyed by both disciplines.	20	x		
3	Differentiate key importance and characteristics of study on material culture and that of text-based sources from Prehistory to Ming in China.	20	x		
4	Apply the understanding of academic connection and co-effect between the two disciplines to general intellectual inquiries, historical or contemporary.	20		x	
5	Analyse in depth the types of interactive nexus between the two disciplines in various facets over time, so as to build up a sound and critical awareness for interdisciplinary dynamics and their implications to other cross-discipline circumstances.	20			x

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 real-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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Students will engaged in lecture and related in-class learning activities, aiming to explain the facts, ideas, themes, research findings, and discuss on the key concepts and theories in Chinese archaeology.	1, 2, 3
2	Reading	Students will critically engaged with books, articles and archaeological reports related to the course topics.	2, 3, 4
3	Group discussion and presentation	Group discussions and presentations are required. Teacher will assess students' analytical skills and their understanding of assigned readings. Students will be divided into small groups to present on assigned topics. Teachers will assess and grade the presentation groups according to their performance. Through presentations and peer assessments, students' analytical skills will be enhanced.	3, 5

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	In-class discussion: Student are required to proactively contribute to class by offering ideas and asking questions consistently in all classes. They should listen when others talk, both in groups and in class, use appropriate terminology and be able to synthesize or indicate gaps or extensions to the topics. Students are asked at the end of the lesson to pose one question and summarize the course contents based on that day' s lecture. Students will take quizzes in class.	1, 2, 3, 4	10
2	Group Presentation: Students are required to develop their own points and express their creative ideas fluently.	2, 4	10
3	One written assignment (around 1000 words): Students are required to write a short assignment, for the development of an in-depth understanding of the key concepts and theories.	1, 2, 3	10
4	Final paper (around 3000 words): Students are required to carry out reflective writing on what they have learnt in class to consolidate and deepen their knowledge in Chinese Archaeology.	3, 5	30

Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

In-class discussion

Criterion

Students actively participate in discussions, debates and other class activities in tutorials and lectures. They should demonstrate an ability to interpret and criticize both insightfully and innovatively.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of:

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, able to simulate class discussion and comment on other points.
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Some evidence of :

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, able to initiate class discussion and comment on other points.
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited evidence of :

- Active in-class participation, listening comprehension, able to participate in class discussion and comment on other points.
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Marginal (D)

Marginally satisfies the basic requirements of the participation.

Failure (F)

Fail to meet minimum requirements of participation

Assessment Task

Group Presentation

Criterion

This assessment will grade on content and fluency of presentation as well as the organisation and coherence of the assignment. The group delivering the presentation must have thoroughly studied and researched their topic and worked as a team on the collection, reading, selection, integration, analysis of the resources. They should lead classmates into the discussion, to explain with rich content and excellent grasp of the materials with in-depth or extensive knowledge of the subject matter. They should demonstrate rigorous organization, coherent structure, balanced composition and an ability to criticize and analyse with cogent arguments and creative comments.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of:

- Rich content, excellent grasp of the materials with in-depth or extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, balanced composition;
- Critical analysis, convincing statement and creative comment;
- Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management

Good (B+, B, B-)

Some evidence of:

- Rich content, excellent grasp of the materials with in-depth or extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, balanced composition;
- Critical analysis, convincing statement and creative comment;

- Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited evidence of:

- Rich content, excellent grasp of the materials with in-depth or extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, balanced composition;
- Critical analysis, convincing statement and creative comment;
- Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management.

Marginal (D)

- Loose organization, but acceptable identified content.
- Adequate understanding of the reading and indication of grasp of the general ideas, limited or irrelevant use of reading materials;
- Simple and unilateral comments, without clear explanation;
- Acceptable pronunciation and expression; few of mistakes in diction, but no influence to general delivery.

Failure (F)

- Limited familiarity with the facts of the reading and its surface relations, unsystematic ideas which cannot express the subject matter or relevant themes;
- Loose organization, without distinct primary and secondary structure;
- Devoid of personal comment and/or unreasonable opinion;
- Overly soft voice, indistinct pronunciation and improper diction, seriously over time.

Assessment Task

Written Assignment

Criterion

This assessment will grade on content, organization and fluency. Students should demonstrate the ability to utilize primary and secondary sources properly, deliver argument and analyse critically, apply research methods skilfully, as well as conclude in a convincing and creative manner.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of :

- Rich content, ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition;
- Creative, and insightful ideas
- Able to interpret the opinions originally;
- Sufficient and organized references which can be utilized in accordance with the topic.
- Exact and fluent expression, good sense of context, able to use various research methods and writing skills to make the paper convincing with proper diction.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Some evidence of :

- Rich content, ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition;
- Creative and insightful ideas
- Able to interpret the opinions originally;
- Sufficient and organized references which can be utilized in accordance with the topic.
- Exact and fluent expression, good sense of context, able to use various writing skills to make the paper convincing with proper diction.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited evidence of :

- Rich content, ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand;

- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition;
- Creative and insightful ideas
- Able to interpret the opinions originally;
- Sufficient and organized references which can be utilized in accordance with the topic.
- Exact and fluent expression, good sense of context, able to use various writing skills to make the paper convincing with proper diction.

Marginal (D)

- Adequate content, ability to integrate resources generally based on demand, limited or irrelevant use of resources;
- Loose organization;
- Able to express relevant points to the subject matter;
- References are insufficient, ability to provide some reasonable personal comments, but no clear - demonstration;
- Sentence fluency and diction is acceptable.

Failure (F)

- Vague and devoid of content, weak ability to integrate limited resources;
- Loose organization, without distinct primary and secondary levels;
- Unsystematic ideas which cannot express the subject matter or relevant themes;
- Summary of references, no personal idea and/or unreasonable comment;
- Seriously insufficient/no reference;
- Although expression is not clear, part of the idea can be identified; over- use of existing quotations and relevant research.

Assessment Task

Final Paper

Criterion

This assessment will grade on content, organization and fluency. Students should demonstrate the ability to utilize primary and secondary sources properly, deliver argument and analyse critically, apply research methods skilfully, as well as conclude in a convincing and creative manner.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of :

- Rich content, ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition;
- Creative, and insightful ideas
- Able to interpret the opinions originally;
- Sufficient and organized references which can be utilized in accordance with the topic.
- Exact and fluent expression, good sense of context, able to use various research methods and writing skills to make the paper convincing with proper diction.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Some evidence of :

- Rich content, ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition;
- Creative and insightful ideas
- Able to interpret the opinions originally;
- Sufficient and organized references which can be utilized in accordance with the topic.
- Exact and fluent expression, good sense of context, able to use various writing skills to make the paper convincing with proper diction.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited evidence of :

- Rich content, ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition;

- Creative and insightful ideas
- Able to interpret the opinions originally;
- Sufficient and organized references which can be utilized in accordance with the topic.
- Exact and fluent expression, good sense of context, able to use various writing skills to make the paper convincing with proper diction.

Marginal (D)

- Adequate content, ability to integrate resources generally based on demand, limited or irrelevant use of resources;
- Loose organization;
- Able to express relevant points to the subject matter;
- References are insufficient, ability to provide some reasonable personal comments, but no clear demonstration;
- Sentence fluency and diction is acceptable.

Failure (F)

- Vague and devoid of content, weak ability to integrate limited resources;
- Loose organization, without distinct primary and secondary levels;
- Unsystematic ideas which cannot express the subject matter or relevant themes;
- Summary of references, no personal idea and/or unreasonable comment;
- Seriously insufficient/no reference;
- Although expression is not clear, part of the idea can be identified; over- use of existing quotations and relevant research.

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

An examination will be given to assess students' knowledge and ability in describing, analysing and reflecting on the subject.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Excellent command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of ancient Chinese history.
- Deep understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them
- Innovative ideas with convincing demonstration
- Good and organized expression

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Good command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of ancient Chinese history.
- Deep understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them
- Innovative ideas with convincing demonstration
- Good and organized expression

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Adequate command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of ancient Chinese history.
- Understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them
- Innovative ideas with less convincing demonstration

Marginal (D)

- Marginal command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of ancient Chinese history.
- Fair understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them
- Ideas without convincing demonstration

Failure (F)

- Failure to show knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of ancient Chinese history.
- Poor understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them
- Ideas without convincing demonstration

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Chinese Archaeology, Chinese History, Archaeological Discoveries, Historical Texts, Material Culture Study, Adaptive Systems, Meanings of Material Culture, Artifact, Archaeological Site/Feature/Context, Archaeological/Historical Approaches, Prehistory, Chinese Dynasties, Interdisciplinary Dialogue and Exchange.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Anne Underhill (ed), <i>A Companion to Chinese Archaeology</i> , New York: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.
2	Li Liu and Xingcan Chen, <i>The Archaeology of China: From the Late Paleolithic to the Early Bronze Age</i> , Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
3	Xiaoneng Yang, <i>New Perspectives on China's Past: Twentieth-Century Chinese Archaeology</i> , New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Falkenhausen, Lothar von. <i>Chinese Society in the Age of Confucius (1000-250 BC): The Archaeological Evidence</i> . Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, University of California, 2006.
2	Chang Kwang-chih, <i>The Archaeology of Ancient China</i> (4 edition), New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987.
3	Gideon Shelach-Lavi, <i>The Archaeology of Early China: From Prehistory to the Han Dynasty</i> , Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.