

# CAH4507: CRITICAL APPROACHES TO ART AND HISTORY

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2022/23

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Critical Approaches to Art and History

### Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

### Course Number

4507

### 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

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

CTL4507 Critical Approaches to Art and History

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

Base on the aesthetic and theoretical concepts (such as intention and expectation or meaning and truth) this course aims to introduce research methodologies and approaches to art history to critically study and analyze art pieces, architecture, and cultural artifacts. The course seeks to introduce to students how to formulate a significant research question, how to select the right research approaches, how to select their evidence, how to prove their claims with valid evidence, and how to present their findings logically. The course will prepare students for their final year projects.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

| CILOs |   | Weighting (if app.) | DEC-A1 | DEC-A2 | DEC-A3 |
|-------|---|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1     | Apply different theoretical concepts in analyzing art pieces, architecture, and cultural artifacts. | 25                  | x      | x      |        |
| 2     | Formulate significant research questions and select the right methodologies for their studies.      | 25                  | x      | x      |        |
| 3     | Demonstrate their critical judgment of studying and analyzing researches by others.                 | 25                  |        | x      | x      |
| 4     | Articulate valid evidence to support their claims.  | 25                  |        | x      | 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.

### Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

| TLAs |  | Brief Description  | CILO No.   | Hours/week (if applicable) |
|------|--|--|------------|----------------------------|
| 1    | Readings   | Book chapters and articles related to the topics   | 1, 2, 3, 4 |                            |
| 2    | Lectures and teacher facilitated analysis and discussion | Theories and concepts of arts and aesthetic criticism, synthesis of readings, case studies | 1, 2, 3, 4 |                            |
| 3    | Guided field trips                                       | Guided visits to museums or art markets; report on these visits                            | 1, 2, 3, 4 |                            |

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

| ATs | CILO No.   | Weighting (%) | Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use) |
|-----|--|---------------|--|
| 1   | Short reports: Students are required to introduce and review a recent publication in the field of East Asian Art History. The review should be presented in both written (approx. 800 words) and oral forms (approx. 5 mins).                            | 1, 2, 3, 4    | 30                                     |
| 2   | Final written assignment: No word limit but students should write enough to fully discuss their topic and present their ideas logically. Students are required to develop a research proposal to demonstrate their understanding of the class materials. | 1, 2, 3, 4    | 40                                     |
| 3   | Group/Individual presentation: Student/s are required to give a presentation in which they explain and analyze critically any concept(s) introduced in the course and apply the chosen concept(s) to other cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.     | 1, 2, 3, 4    | 20                                     |
| 4   | Classroom participation, attendance, attitude  | 1, 2, 3, 4    | 10                                     |

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

Final Written Assignment

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

1. Excellent command of knowledge of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
2. Excellent capacity to critically analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Excellent linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Excellent presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

1. Good grasp of the features of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
2. Some evidence of critical ability in analyzing the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Good linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Good presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

1. Adequate command of the course content.
2. A certain degree of understanding of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
3. Fair linguistic competence to present the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of concepts covered in the course.

**Marginal (D)**

1. Familiarity with the concepts covered in the course.
2. Marginal command of course materials, with the ability to describe some important features of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
3. Marginal ability and skills to analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Marginal presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Failure (F)**

1. Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter covered in the course.
  2. Weakness in critical and analytic skills.
  3. Weakness in demonstrating an understanding or an appreciation of the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
  4. Weakness in presentation skills.
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**Assessment Task**

Individual/Group presentation

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

1. Excellent command of knowledge of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
2. Excellent capacity to critically analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Excellent linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Excellent presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

1. Good grasp of the features of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
2. Some evidence of critical ability in analyzing the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Good linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Good presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

1. Adequate command of the course content.
2. A certain degree of understanding of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
3. Fair linguistic competence to present the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of concepts covered in the course.

**Marginal (D)**

1. Familiarity with the concepts covered in the course.
2. Marginal command of course materials, with the ability to describe some important features of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
3. Marginal ability and skills to analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Marginal presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Failure (F)**

1. Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter covered in the course.
  2. Weakness in critical and analytic skills.
  3. Weakness in demonstrating an understanding or an appreciation of the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
  4. Weakness in presentation skills.
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**Assessment Task**

Short reports

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

1. Excellent command of knowledge of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
2. Excellent capacity to critically analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Excellent linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Excellent presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

1. Good grasp of the features of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
2. Some evidence of critical ability in analyzing the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Good linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Good presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

1. Adequate command of the course content.
2. A certain degree of understanding of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
3. Fair linguistic competence to present the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of concepts covered in the course.

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3. Marginal ability and skills to analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Marginal presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Failure (F)**

1. Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter covered in the course.
  2. Weakness in critical and analytic skills.
  3. Weakness in demonstrating an understanding or an appreciation of the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
  4. Weakness in presentation skills.
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**Assessment Task**

Classroom participation, attendance, attitude

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

1. Excellent command of knowledge of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
2. Excellent capacity to critically analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
3. Excellent linguistic competence to present the aesthetic features of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Excellent presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

1. Good grasp of the features of different schools of aesthetic criticisms.
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3. Marginal ability and skills to analyze the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Marginal presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding and an application of the concepts covered in the course.

**Failure (F)**

1. Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter covered in the course.
2. Weakness in critical and analytic skills.
3. Weakness in demonstrating an understanding or an appreciation of the aesthetic values of various cultural artworks and heritage artifacts.
4. Weakness in presentation skills.

## Part III Other Information

**Keyword Syllabus**

Topics may include but are not restricted to the following:

Art, aesthetic criticism, art as experience, intentions and expectations, meaning and truth, historical and ethnic influences, commercialization, schools of criticism

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

|    | Title  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Booth, Colomb and Williams. <i>The Craft of Research</i> . (Chicago and London: University of Chicago press)   |
| 2  | Barrett, Terry. <i>Criticizing art: understanding the contemporary</i> , 2nd ed. (Mountain View, Calif.: Mayfield Pub. Co., 2000)  |
| 3  | Collingwood, R. G. <i>The Principles of Art</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1958)  |
| 4  | Cooper, David E. <i>Aesthetics: The Classic Readings</i> (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1997)  |
| 5  | Feagin, Susan, & Maynard, Patrick (ed). <i>Aesthetics</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997)  |
| 6  | Gombrich, E. H. <i>Art and illusion: a study in the psychology of pictorial representation</i> (London: Phaidon, 1977)   |
| 7  | Gombrich, E. H. <i>The Story of Art</i> (London: Phaidon Press Limited, 1995); Hertz, Richard (ed.). <i>Theories of contemporary art</i> (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1993) |
| 8  | Jin Yong, <i>Arts in China</i> (Beijing: China Intercontinental Press, 2007)   |
| 9  | Lynton, Norbert <i>The Story of Modern Art</i> (London: Phaidon Press Limited, 1989)   |
| 10 | Lou Qingxi, <i>Traditional Architectural Culture of China</i> , trans. Su Guang (Beijing: China Travel & Tourism Press, 2008)  |
| 11 | Rader, Melvin (ed.). <i>A Modern Book of Esthetics</i> , 5th ed. (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1979)  |

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|----|--|
| 12 | Ratner, Leonard G. Music, the listener' s art, 3rd ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co. 1977)                       |
| 13 | Sheppard, Anne. Aesthetics: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Art (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987)       |
| 14 | Smagula, Howard (ed.). Re-visions: new perspectives of art criticism (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1991) |
| 15 | 李書源, 圖說中國文化 – 建築工程卷 (長春: 吉林人民出版社, 2007)  |
| 16 | 陳靜、燕泥, 圖說中國文化 – 藝術卷 (長春: 吉林人民出版社, 2007)  |
| 17 | 任道斌, 中國繪畫 (香港: 三聯, 2004)   |
| 18 | 劉昌元, 西方美學導論 (台北: 聯經, 1999)   |
| 19 | 侯幼彬, 中國建築美學 (哈爾濱: 黑龍江科學技術出版社, 1997)  |
| 20 | 樓慶西, 中國傳統建築文化 (北京: 中國旅遊出版社, 2008)  |

### Additional Readings

|   | Title   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Aesthetics (The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy) <a href="http://www.iep.utm.edu/a/aestheti.htm">http://www.iep.utm.edu/a/aestheti.htm</a>                                  |
| 2 | Olga' s Gallery <a href="http://www.abcgallery.com/">http://www.abcgallery.com/</a>   |
| 3 | Dewey' s Aesthetics (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/dewey-aesthetics/">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/dewey-aesthetics/</a> |