

City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course offered by Department of Chinese and History with effect from Semester A in 2014 / 2015

Part I

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: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	CAH8808 Research Methods for Chinese Studies
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II

Course Aims

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.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
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	

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1-2	Seminars	Students are required to attend 5 seminars during the semester.
CILO 3-4	Research Proposal	
CILO 5	Research Project	

Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1-2	Seminar participation and discussion	25%	
CILO 3-4	Research Proposal	25%	Students are required to submit 1 research proposal.
CILO 5	Research Project	50%	Students are required to submit 1 research project at the end of the semester.

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.

Grading of Student Achievement:

Grading pattern: Standard (A+, A, A-, ... F). Grading is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities.

Excellent A+, A, A-	Good B+, B, B-	Adequate C+, C, C-	Marginal D
Excellent application of various research methods; Strong evidence of original thinking; superior grasp of subject matter; very thorough in research; strong evidence of critical thinking and intellectual abilities; great clarity and effectiveness in writing and presentation	Appropriate application of research methods; Evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical thinking and intellectual abilities; evidence of familiarity with the literature; evidence of research; effectiveness in writing and presentation	Poor application of research methods; Some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the materials; some sign of research; little critical and analytical capacity; some problems in writing and presentation	Wrong application of research methods; Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course; little sign of research and critical thinking; weakness in writing and presentation

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

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

Recommended Reading

Text(s)

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>>