

CAH5707: CLASSICAL CHINESE PHILOLOGY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Classical Chinese Philology

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

5707

Academic Unit

Chinese and History (CAH)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

Chinese

Medium of Assessment

Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL5707 Topics in Classical Chinese Philology

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course introduces students to Chinese exegesis (xungu xue 訓詁學), a practical and integrative branch of Chinese philology focused on analyzing the meanings of words in ancient Chinese texts through the linguistic analysis of sounds,

scripts, and grammar. Along the way, students will be introduced to paleography (wenzi xue 文字學), historical phonology (yinyun xue 音韻學), and the history of Chinese philology, while gaining hands-on experience with digital tools and online resources for philological research. By the end of the course, students will have strengthened their ability to read and research ancient Chinese texts and will be well-prepared to apply philological methods to the study of premodern Chinese literature, history, and culture.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Describe the development and structure of Chinese characters, and various methods in the study of ancient Chinese characters.	40	x		
2	Demonstrate a good knowledge of the rules governing the development of Chinese phonology and the structure of classical Chinese phonology.	40		x	
3	Introduce concepts and methods in the study of text-based semantics.	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	Lectures	Students will engage in formal lectures to gain knowledge about key concepts and specific issues of classical Chinese philology. Students and teacher will adopt an example-based approach to use various methodologies in the study of classical Chinese.	1, 2, 3	2 hours/week

2	Tutorials	Students will form tutorial groups. Each group will be responsible for an oral presentation. Specific topics will be given each week. Each group will give a presentation on a chosen topic while other students give feedback. Each group will submit one tutorial paper.	1, 2, 3	1 hour/week
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Tutorial presentations + reports	1, 2, 3	35	Initiating dialogues, degree of participation etc	No
2	Test (1 hour)	1, 2, 3	45	-	No
3	Participation	1, 2, 3	20	Students are encouraged to use GenAI tools while self-studying assigned readings and formulating questions for lecture and tutorial discussions.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Tutorial presentations + reports (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Preparation, communication skills, group cooperation, critical thinking, knowledge of subject matter

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

Excellent critical thinking ability and creative ideas in reviewing research report / research articles related to the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Excellent and innovative application of theories in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

Good critical thinking ability in reviewing research report / research articles related to the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Good application of theories in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

Fair critical thinking ability in reviewing research report / research articles related to the study of Classical Chinese philology.

A certain degree of application of theories in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Marginal

(D)

Marginal critical thinking ability in reviewing research report / research articles related to the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Marginal application of theories in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Failure

(F)

Fail to demonstrate critical thinking ability in reviewing research report/research articles related to the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Fail to apply theories in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Assessment Task

Test (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

1 hour test

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent command of knowledge in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good command of knowledge in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate command of knowledge in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Marginal

(D) Marginal command of knowledge in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Failure

(F) Fail to demonstrate command of knowledge in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Assessment Task

Participation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to identify and analyze the topics critically with excellent grasp of the materials and in-depth knowledge of the subject matter;

Ability to interpret independent opinions effectively and efficiently.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of:

- Positive listening, ability to stimulate 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:

- Positive listening, ability 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:

- Positive listening, ability to initiate 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 discussion and comment on other points.

Failure

(F) Fail to meet minimum requirements of discussion and comment on other points.

Assessment Task

Tutorial presentations + reports (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Preparation, communication skills, group cooperation, critical thinking, knowledge of subject matter

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

Excellent critical thinking ability and creative ideas in reviewing research report / research articles related to the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Excellent and innovative application of theories in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Good

(B+, B)

Good critical thinking ability in reviewing research report / research articles related to the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Good application of theories in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

Marginal critical thinking ability in reviewing research report / research articles related to the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Marginal application of theories in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Failure

(F)

Fail to demonstrate critical thinking ability in reviewing research report/research articles related to the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Fail to apply theories in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Assessment Task

Test (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

1 hour test

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent command of knowledge in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Good

(B+, B) Good command of knowledge in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal command of knowledge in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Failure

(F) Fail to demonstrate command of knowledge in the study of Classical Chinese philology.

Assessment Task

Participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to identify and analyze the topics critically with excellent grasp of the materials and in-depth knowledge of the subject matter;

Ability to interpret independent opinions effectively and efficiently.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of:

- Positive listening, ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points;
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Good

(B+, B) Some evidence of:

- Positive listening, ability to initiate class discussion and comment on other points;
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginally satisfies the basic requirements of the discussion and comment on other points.

Failure

(F) Fail to meet minimum requirements of discussion and comment on other points.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Shuowen Jiezi; oracle bone inscriptions and bronze inscriptions; characters in the Warring States; Middle Chinese phonology; Old Chinese phonology; Chinese philology and Classical Chinese texts.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	徐剛：《訓詁方法論》。北京大學出版社，2015年。
2	蘇建洲：《新訓詁學》。上海古籍出版社，2020年。
3	郭在貽：《訓詁學》。中華書局，2005年。
4	黃耀堃：《音韻學引論》。商務印書館（香港），1994年。
5	楊劍橋：《漢語音韻學講義》。復旦大學出版社，2022年。
6	葛亮：《漢字再發現：從舊識到新知》。上海書畫出版社，2022年。

7	復旦大學出土文獻與古文字研究中心：《出土文獻與古文字教程》。中西書局，2024年。
8	裘錫圭：《文字學概要》。商務印書館，2013年。
9	沈钟伟：《漢語音韻史》。上海教育出版社，2024年。
10	張谷銘：〈Philology與史語所：陳寅恪、傅斯年與中國的「東方學」〉，《中央研究院歷史語言研究所集刊》87.2 (2016.6): 375-460。
11	Paul Michael Kurtz, "The Philological Apparatus: Science, Text, and Nation in the Nineteenth Century," <i>Critical Inquiry</i> 47.4 (2021): 747-776.
12	Lorraine Daston and Glenn W. Most, "History of Science and History of Philologies," <i>Isis</i> 106.2 (2015): 378-390.
13	郭西安：〈回到什麼語文學？——漢學、比較文學與作為功能的語文學〉，《中國比較文學》121 (2020.4): 77-101。
14	Sophus Helle, "What Is Philology? From Crises of Reading to Comparative Reflections," <i>Poetics Today</i> 43.4 (2022): 611-637.
15	Michael Gavin, "Why Distant Reading Works," <i>New Literary History</i> 54, no. 1 (2022): 613-633.
16	Katherine Bode, "What's the Matter with Computational Literary Studies?" <i>Critical Inquiry</i> 49.4 (2023): 507-529.
17	Graziosi, Barbara, Johannes Haubold, Charlie Cowen-Breen, and Creston Brooks. "Machine Learning and the Future of Philology: A Case Study." <i>TAPA</i> 153, no. 1 (2023): 253-284.
18	Jo Marchant, "How AI is Unlocking Ancient Texts — and Could Rewrite History," <i>Nature</i> 637 (2025): 14-17.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	許慎著，段玉裁注。《說文解字注》。上海：上海古籍出版社，1981。
2	余迺永校註。《新校互註宋本廣韻》。上海：上海人民出版社，2008。
3	周斌武。1988。《中國古代語言學文選》。上海：上海古籍出版社。
4	洪誠。1982。《中國歷代語言文字學文選》。南京：江蘇人民出版社。
5	胡奇光。1987。《中國小學史》。上海：上海人民出版社。
6	王力。1972。《漢語音韻》。香港：中華書局。
7	王力。1984。《中國語言學史》。香港：中國圖書刊行社。
8	唐蘭。1991。《中國文字學》。上海：上海書店。
9	唐作藩。1972。《漢語音韻學常識》。香港：中華書局。
10	高明。1987。《中國古文字學通論》。北京：語文出版社。
11	孫雍長。1997。《訓詁原理》。北京：語文出版社。
12	陸宗達，王寧。1994。《訓詁與訓詁學》。太原：山西教育出版社。
13	陸宗達。1980。《訓詁簡論》。北京：北京出版社。
14	單周堯。2009。《勉齋小學論叢》。上海：上海古籍出版社。
15	湯可敬。1997。《說文解字今釋》。長沙：岳麓書社。
16	葉國良編。2004。《文獻及語言知識與經典詮釋的關係》。台北：國立台灣大學出版中心。
17	董同龢。1968。《漢語音韻學》。台北：文史哲出版社。
18	裘錫圭。1988。《文字學概要》。北京：商務印書館。
19	劉釗。2006。《古文字構形學》。福州：福建人民出版社。
20	劉翔，陳抗，陳初生，董琨。1989。《商周古文字讀本》。北京：語文出版社。