

CAH5733: SPECIAL TOPICS IN CHINESE LITERATURE AND RELIGION

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Special Topics in Chinese Literature and Religion

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

5733

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

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aims of this course are:

1. to develop students' ability to analyse the basic tenets and history of Chinese Buddhism or Taoism;
2. to enhance students' ability to discover and analyse the relationship between Chinese literature and Buddhism or Taoism;
3. to enhance students' ability to discover and analyse the major literary genres and the themes in Chinese religious literature;
4. to develop students' ability to understand the religious ideas and practices appear in Chinese literary works and appreciate the beauty of religious literature.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Discuss the basic tenets and history of Chinese Buddhism or Taoism.		x	x	
2	Discover and analyse the features of Buddhist or Taoist literature.		x	x	x
3	Discover and analyse the religious themes in great works of Chinese literature.		x	x	x
4	Discover and analyse the influence of Buddhism or Taoism on Chinese poetry, drama, fiction, popular literature, and literary thought.		x	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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Readings	Students will develop an in-depth understanding of the selected topics through reading scholarly books and articles.	2, 3, 4	

2	Lectures	Students will engage in lecture activities about the basic tenets and history of Chinese Buddhism and Taoism; the features of Buddhist or Taoist literature; the religious themes in great works of Chinese literature; the influence of Buddhism or Taoism on Chinese poetry, drama, fiction, popular literature, and literary thought.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Tutorials	Students will give oral presentation on a chosen topic while other students give feedback.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	One individual term paper: to assess students' critical thinking ability in understanding the importance and significance of Chinese literature and religion.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	Yes
2	Oral presentation: to assess students' understanding of the knowledge of Chinese literature and religion.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	Yes
3	In-class discussion: includes students' participation in discussions during tutorials, and peer review of tutorial presentation.	1, 2, 3	10	-	Yes

4	Test (2 hours) Final test Students will be tested on (1) factual information of the topics discussed throughout the course; (2) their critical opinions of certain issues related to the subject taught in the class.	1, 2, 3, 4	50	-	No
---	--	------------	----	---	----

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

1. Knowledge of the subject.
2. Critical thinking ability in reviewing relevant researches.
3. Application of relevant theories.
4. Ability in knowledge application.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Excellent critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
3. Excellent application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
4. Excellent ability in knowledge application.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Good critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
3. Good application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
4. Good ability in knowledge application.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

1. Fair command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Fair critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
3. Fair application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
4. Fair ability in knowledge application.

Marginal

(D)

1. Marginal command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Marginal critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
3. Marginal application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;

4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.

Failure

(F)

1. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
 2. Unsatisfactory critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/ research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
 3. Unsatisfactory application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
 4. Unsatisfactory ability in knowledge application.
-

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Show ability in integrating ideas and opinions which are relevant to the point and evidence of providing innovative ideas, criticism and analysis with convincing statement and creative comment.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent understanding of the major development of the subject matter;
2. Excellent understanding of the features of the subject matter;
3. Excellent understanding of the relationship between Chinese literature and religion;
4. Excellent innovative and discovery ability on topics related to the subject matter.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

1. Good understanding of the major development of the subject matter;
2. Good understanding of the features of the subject matter;
3. Good understanding of the relationships between Chinese literature and religion;
4. Good innovative and discovery ability on topics related to the subject matter.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

1. A certain degree of understanding of the major development of the subject matter;
2. A certain degree of understanding of the features of the subject matter;
3. A certain degree of understanding of the relationships between Chinese literature and religion;
4. Acceptable reflective and discovery ability on topics related to the subject matter.

Marginal

(D)

1. Marginal command of course materials, with fair understanding of the subject matter's major development and features as well as its relationship between Chinese literature and religion;
2. Marginal reflective and discovery ability on topics related to the subject matter.

Failure

(F)

1. Incapable command of course materials, with fair understanding of the major development of the subject matter and the relationship between Chinese literature and religion;
 2. Insufficient reflective and discovery ability on topics related to the subject matter.
-

Assessment Task

In-class discussion (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

1. Ability to identify and analyse the topics critically with excellent grasp of the materials and in-depth knowledge of the subject matter.
2. Ability to interpret independent opinions effectively and efficiently.

Excellent

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

1. Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points;
2. Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Some evidence of:

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

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Limited evidence of:

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

Marginal

(D) Marginally satisfy the basic requirements of participation.

Failure

(F) Fail to meet the minimum requirements of participation.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

1. Knowledge of the subject.
2. Critical thinking ability in reviewing relevant researches.
3. Application of relevant theories.
4. Ability in knowledge application.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Excellent critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
3. Excellent application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
4. Excellent ability in knowledge application.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Good critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
3. Good application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
4. Good ability in knowledge application.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

1. Fair command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Fair critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;

3. Fair application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
4. Fair ability in knowledge application.

Marginal

- (D)
1. Marginal command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
 2. Marginal critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
 3. Marginal application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
 4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.

Failure

- (F)
1. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
 2. Unsatisfactory critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/ research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
 3. Unsatisfactory application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
 4. Unsatisfactory ability in knowledge application.
-

Assessment Task

Individual term paper (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

1. Knowledge of the subject.
2. Critical thinking ability in reviewing relevant researches.
3. Application of relevant theories.
4. Ability in knowledge application.

Excellent

- (A+, A, A-)
1. Excellent command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
 2. Excellent critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
 3. Excellent application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
 4. Excellent ability in knowledge application.

Good

- (B+, B)
1. Good command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
 2. Good critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
 3. Good application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
 4. Good ability in knowledge application.

Marginal

- (B-, C+, C)
1. Marginal command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
 2. Marginal critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
 3. Marginal application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
 4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.

Failure

- (F)
1. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;

2. Unsatisfactory critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/ research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
 3. Unsatisfactory application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
 4. Unsatisfactory ability in knowledge application.
-

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Show ability in integrating ideas and opinions which are relevant to the point and evidence of providing innovative ideas, criticism and analysis with convincing statement and creative comment.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent understanding of the major development of the subject matter;
2. Excellent understanding of the features of the subject matter;
3. Excellent understanding of the relationship between Chinese literature and religion;
4. Excellent innovative and discovery ability on topics related to the subject matter.

Good

(B+, B)

1. Good understanding of the major development of the subject matter;
2. Good understanding of the features of the subject matter;
3. Good understanding of the relationships between Chinese literature and religion;
4. Good innovative and discovery ability on topics related to the subject matter.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

1. Marginal command of course materials, with fair understanding of the subject matter's major development and features as well as its relationship between Chinese literature and religion;
2. Marginal reflective and discovery ability on topics related to the subject matter.

Failure

(F)

1. Incapable command of course materials, with fair understanding of the major development of the subject matter and the relationship between Chinese literature and religion;
 2. Insufficient reflective and discovery ability on topics related to the subject matter.
-

Assessment Task

In-class discussion (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

1. Ability to identify and analyse the topics critically with excellent grasp of the materials and in-depth knowledge of the subject matter.
2. Ability to interpret independent opinions effectively and efficiently.

Excellent

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

1. Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points;
2. Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Good

(B+, B) Some evidence of:

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

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginally satisfy the basic requirements of participation.

Failure

(F) Fail to meet the minimum requirements of participation.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

1. Knowledge of the subject.
2. Critical thinking ability in reviewing relevant researches.
3. Application of relevant theories.
4. Ability in knowledge application.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Excellent critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
3. Excellent application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
4. Excellent ability in knowledge application.

Good

(B+, B)

1. Good command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Good critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
3. Good application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
4. Good ability in knowledge application.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

1. Marginal command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
2. Marginal critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
3. Marginal application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.

Failure

(F)

1. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge of Chinese literature and religion;
 2. Unsatisfactory critical thinking ability in reviewing research reports/ research articles related to Chinese literature and religion;
 3. Unsatisfactory application of theories in studying Chinese literature and religion;
 4. Unsatisfactory ability in knowledge application.
-

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

The tenets and history of Chinese Buddhism or Taoism, discover and analyse the features of Buddhist or Taoist literature, religious influence on Chinese literati and literature

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	孫昌武：《道教文學十講》，北京：中華書局，2014。
2	孫昌武：《佛教文學十講》，北京：中華書局，2014。

Additional Readings

Title	
1	陳允吉：《佛教與中國文學論稿》，上海：上海古籍出版社，2010。
2	陳引馳：《中古文學與佛教》，北京：商務印書館，2017。
3	詹石窗：《道教文學史》，上海：上海文藝出版社，1992。
4	侯傳文：《佛經的文學性解讀》，北京：中華書局，2004。
5	楊建波：《道教文學史論稿》，武漢：武漢出版社，2001。
6	李豐楙：《仙境與游歷：神仙世界的想像》，北京：中華書局，2010。
7	李豐楙：《憂與遊：六朝隋唐仙道文學》，北京：中華書局，2010。
8	黎志添：《了解道教》，香港：三聯書店，2017。
9	葛兆光：《道教與中國文化》，上海：上海人民出版社，1987。
10	吳光正等編：《二十世紀「佛教與古代文學」論叢》，哈爾濱：黑龍江人民出版社，2009。
11	吳光正等編：《二十世紀「道教與古代文學」論叢》，哈爾濱：黑龍江人民出版社，2006。
12	葛兆光：《想象力的世界：道教與唐代文學》，北京：現代出版社，1990年。
13	孫昌武：《道教與唐代文學》，北京：人民文學出版社，2001。
14	加地哲定著，劉衛星譯：《中國佛教文學》，北京：今日中國出版社，1990。
15	平野顯照著，張桐生譯：《唐代的文學與佛教》，台北：華宇出版社，1986。
16	馬焯榮：《中國宗教文學史》，北京：中國社會科學出版社，2014。