

CAH5743: CANTONESE OPERA: TEXTS AND PERFORMANCE

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Cantonese Opera: Texts and Performance

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

5743

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

Chinese opera is an important genre of performing arts along with Chinese history. It is complex as it is combined with music, dance, acrobatics, and drama. Cantonese opera is a well-known form of Chinese opera in Hong Kong, Macau, Guangdong area, and Cantonese-speaking communities overseas. Cantonese opera becomes a window for understanding ancient Chinese culture like how moral values are presented throughout the stories. Meanwhile, Cantonese opera undergoes the process of cultural exchange between the east and the West in the twentieth century.

This course is designed for equipping students' abilities to study the original texts, appreciate the performance, and conduct interdisciplinary teaching and research.

The contents of the course will cover a wide range of topics including history, the scripts, music, theatre design, performance practice, recording industry, film industry, and current issues associated with Cantonese opera. In the meantime, students are encouraged to develop their interest in other regional Chinese opera.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Describe the key concepts, theories and methodologies used by Cantonese opera practitioners, theorists and critics.		x		
2	Analyse Cantonese opera performance historically and culturally		x		
3	Evaluate academic research of Cantonese/ Chinese opera from modern perspective			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	Reading	Students will engage in reading book chapters and articles relevant to weekly topics.	1, 2	
2	Lectures	Students will engage in lectures to consolidate theories, concepts, research methodologies, analysis, and video clips of Cantonese Opera performances for illustration.	1, 2, 3	

3	Performance appreciation	Students will participate in visiting live performance visit or online watching.	2, 3	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Presentation	1, 2	30	-	No
2	Appreciation report	1, 2	30	-	No
3	Term paper	2, 3	40	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Presentation (for students admitted in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students are required to do an oral presentation to show an understanding of the basic concepts of Cantonese opera.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Excellent understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Excellent linguistic competence in conveying the meanings effectively with few grammatical mistakes.
4. Excellent skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Good understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Good linguistic competence in conveying the meanings clearly with random grammatical mistakes.
4. Good skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Adequate understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Fair linguistic competence in conveying the meanings with random and systematic grammatical mistakes.
4. Acceptable skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Marginal

(D)

1. Marginal command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Marginal understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Marginal linguistic competence in conveying the meanings with random and systematic grammatical mistakes
4. Marginal skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Failure

(F)

Fail to meet the minimum requirements.

Assessment Task

Appreciation report (for students admitted in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students are required to finish an appreciation report.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Excellent understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Excellent linguistic competence in conveying the meanings effectively with few grammatical mistakes.
4. Excellent skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

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2. Good understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Good linguistic competence in conveying the meanings clearly with random grammatical mistakes.
4. Good skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Adequate understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Fair linguistic competence in conveying the meanings with random and systematic grammatical mistakes.
4. Acceptable skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Marginal

(D)

1. Marginal command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Marginal understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Marginal linguistic competence in conveying the meanings with random and systematic grammatical mistakes
4. Marginal skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Failure

(F)

Fail to meet the minimum requirements.

Assessment Task

Term paper (for students admitted in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students are required to write a paper to analyze and discuss the current issues of Cantonese opera. Meanwhile, students are encouraged to develop their interest in other regional Chinese operas.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Excellent understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.

3. Excellent linguistic competence in conveying the meanings effectively with few grammatical mistakes.
4. Excellent skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

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4. Marginal skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Failure

(F)

Fail to meet the minimum requirements.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Students are required to do an oral presentation to show an understanding of the basic concepts of Cantonese opera.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Excellent understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Excellent linguistic competence in conveying the meanings effectively with few grammatical mistakes.
4. Excellent skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

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2. Good understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Good linguistic competence in conveying the meanings clearly with random grammatical mistakes.
4. Good skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

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2. Marginal understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.

3. Marginal linguistic competence in conveying the meanings with random and systematic grammatical mistakes
4. Marginal skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Failure

(F)

Fail to meet the minimum requirements.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Students are required to finish an appreciation report.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of background information and knowledge of Cantonese opera.
2. Excellent understanding of different approaches in studies of Cantonese opera.
3. Excellent linguistic competence in conveying the meanings effectively with few grammatical mistakes.
4. Excellent skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

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Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Students are required to write a paper to analyze and discuss the current issues of Cantonese opera. Meanwhile, students are encouraged to develop their interest in other regional Chinese operas.

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4. Marginal skills in presenting the issues of Cantonese opera.

Failure

(F)

Fail to meet the minimum requirements.

Additional Information for ARNot applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23**Part III Other Information****Keyword Syllabus**

Chinese opera, Cantonese opera, Kunqu, Peking opera, Cantonese music, Film industry of Chinese opera, recording industry of Chinese opera, Intangible Cultural Heritage

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	陳守仁，《香港粵劇導論》。香港：香港中文大學音樂系粵劇研究計劃，1999。
2	黃泉鋒編，《中國音樂導賞》。香港：商務印書館，2009。
3	黃泉鋒編，《聽賞中國音樂》。香港：香港大學出版社，2019。
4	梁沛錦，《廣州粵劇發展（1949-1965）》。香港：非常品出版集團有限公司，2008。
5	胡忌、劉致中，《崑劇發展史》。北京：中國戲劇出版社，1989。
6	徐城北，《中國京劇》。北京：五洲傳播出版社，2003。
7	容世誠，《戲曲人類學初探》。台北：麥田出版社，1997。

Additional Readings

Title	
1	陳守仁，《神功粵劇在香港》。香港：香港中文大學音樂系粵劇研究計劃，1996。
2	Ng, Wing Chung. <i>The Rise of Cantonese Opera</i> . Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2015. (Chinese version: 伍榮仲，《粵劇的興起——二次大戰前省港與海外舞台》。香港：中華書局(香港)有限公司，2019。)
3	容世誠，《粵韻留聲—唱片工業與廣東曲藝（1903-1953）》。香港：天地圖書有限公司，2006。

4	容世誠，《尋覓粵劇聲影：從紅船到水銀燈》。香港：牛津大學出版社，2012。
5	中國戲劇出版社編委會編，《中國戲曲入門》。香港：中華書局(香港)有限公司，2020。