

CAH5705: SELECTED READINGS IN SINOLOGY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Selected Readings in Sinology

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

5705

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

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English/Chinese

Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English/Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL5705 Selected Readings in Sinology

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to offer students a critical examination of important works of Sinology from Europe, America, and Asia. Student will identify their fundamental viewpoint, methodological approach and contribution to the larger Chinese studies field. No longer confined to the study of China's ancient civilization, sinology in modern times has broadened to encompass various disciplines, approaches and a wide range of topic in both the humanities and social sciences. Through this interdisciplinary study, students will be able to critically evaluate such works especially on how they contribute or fail to contribute to broader academic knowledge and cross-cultural dialogue between China and the global community. Students shall learn to understand China's changing position in the world through discussing these works and to compare and contrast them with their own studies of Chinese culture and society.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Engage with an overview of the major historical trends and periods in Sinology and China-related research in Europe, America, Japan and/or Korea, and an appreciation of the ways in which these have reflected or motivated broader cross-cultural contact between the societies in question.	40	x		
2	Identify key trends, key issues, and key figures in the development of Sinology in different cultural contexts.	20	x	x	
3	Analyze, at an advanced level, issues in the research literature relating to Chinese language, literature, history and thought in each historical period.	20		x	x
4	Evaluate critically the strengths and weaknesses of certain key works and their contents in a comparative approach to foster students' self-discovery for their own cultural identity.	20		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	Lecture	Students will engage in seminar-style lectures critical enquiry and communication in class.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Tutorial	Students will engage in group discussion, presentations and debates through interaction and reflection.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Students will write an individual term paper or research proposal based on the materials discussed in the class.	1, 2, 3, 4	45	-	Yes
2	Students will engage in group presentation and write a group report based on the presentation and the discussion that follows.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	Yes
3	Students will engage in in-class discussions and questions in lectures and tutorials, and peer review of tutorial presentation.	1, 2, 3	25	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Individual term paper or research proposal based on the materials discussed in the class (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

1. Ability to demonstrate a firm grasp of the subject matter.
2. Ability to integrate ideas and opinions based on one's clear problematic concerns.
3. Ability to analyze, criticize certain issues with critical and coherent arguments.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. The written work shows a thorough understanding of the issues and their theoretical and practical implications, with strong evidence of substantial reading and research.
2. The written work shows independent thought, presents informed and logical discussion as well as demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical evaluation.
3. Strong evidence of original thinking.
4. Evidence of superior grasp of the subject matter with extensive knowledge.
5. Exact and accurate expressions ability to use various writing skills to make the paper convincing and coherent.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

1. The written work shows good understanding of the issues and their theoretical and practical implications, with clear evidence of considerable reading and research.
2. The written work shows some independent thought and sensible discussion as well as demonstrates ability for critical evaluation.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

1. The written work shows adequate understanding of the issues and their theoretical and practical implications, with some evidence of a fair amount of reading and research.
2. The written work is not analytical or critical enough, but able to present a sensible discussion.

Marginal

(D)

1. Marginal command of knowledge concerning the subject matter.
2. Marginal critical thinking ability concerning the subject matter.
3. Marginal application of theories concerning the subject.
4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.

Failure

(F)

1. Vague and devoid of content, weak ability to integrate limited resources.
2. Very poor organization.
3. Unsystematic ideas which cannot express the subject matter or relevant themes.
4. Seriously insufficient or even no reference.
5. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge concerning the subject.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

A tutorial group is responsible to lead the class for discussions in an innovative way on the relevant subject matters. An individual written report based on one's part in the group presentation will also be submitted after the presentation.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge concerning the relevant subject.
2. Excellent critical thinking ability concerning the relevant subject.
3. Excellent application of theories concerning the subject.
4. Excellent ability in knowledge application.
5. Excellent collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of knowledge concerning the relevant subject.
2. Good critical thinking ability concerning the relevant subject.
3. Good application of theories concerning the subject.
4. Good ability in knowledge application.
5. Good collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

1. Fair command of knowledge concerning the subject.
2. Fair critical thinking ability concerning the relevant subject.
3. Fair application of theories concerning the subject.
4. Fair ability in knowledge application.
5. Fair collaboration with teammates and interactions with the fellow classmates.

Marginal

(D)

1. Marginal command of knowledge concerning the subject.
2. Marginal critical thinking ability concerning the relevant subject.
3. Marginal application of theories concerning the relevant subject.
4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.
5. Marginally acceptable collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

Failure

(F)

1. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge.
2. Unsatisfactory critical thinking ability concerning the relevant subject.
3. Unsatisfactory application of theories concerning the relevant subject.
4. Unsatisfactory ability in knowledge application.
5. Unsatisfactory collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

Assessment Task

In-class discussions and questions in lectures and tutorials, and peer review of tutorial presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

In-class discussions and questions in both lecture and tutorial classes, and peer review of tutorial presentation as well.

Excellent

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

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to stimulate class discussions and comments;
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Good

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

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussions and comments;
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Fair

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

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussions and comments;
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Marginal

(D) Marginally satisfies the basic requirements of the participation.

Failure

(F) Fail to meet minimum requirements of participation.

Assessment Task

Individual term paper or research proposal based on the materials discussed in the class (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

1. Ability to demonstrate a firm grasp of the subject matter.
2. Ability to integrate ideas and opinions based on one's clear problematic concerns.
3. Ability to analyze, criticize certain issues with critical and coherent arguments.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. The written work shows a thorough understanding of the issues and their theoretical and practical implications, with strong evidence of substantial reading and research.
2. The written work shows independent thought, presents informed and logical discussion as well as demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical evaluation.
3. Strong evidence of original thinking.
4. Evidence of superior grasp of the subject matter with extensive knowledge.
5. Exact and accurate expressions ability to use various writing skills to make the paper convincing and coherent.

Good

(B+, B)

1. The written work shows good understanding of the issues and their theoretical and practical implications, with clear evidence of considerable reading and research.
2. The written work shows some independent thought and sensible discussion as well as demonstrates ability for critical evaluation.

Fair

(B-, C+, C)

1. Marginal command of knowledge concerning the subject matter.
2. Marginal critical thinking ability concerning the subject matter.
3. Marginal application of theories concerning the subject.
4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.

Failure

(F)

1. Vague and devoid of content, weak ability to integrate limited resources.
 2. Very poor organization.
 3. Unsystematic ideas which cannot express the subject matter or relevant themes.
 4. Seriously insufficient or even no reference.
 5. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge concerning the subject.
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Assessment Task

Group presentation and written report (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

A tutorial group is responsible to lead the class for discussions in an innovative way on the relevant subject matters. An individual written report based on one's part in the group presentation will also be submitted after the presentation.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge concerning the relevant subject.
2. Excellent critical thinking ability concerning the relevant subject.
3. Excellent application of theories concerning the subject.
4. Excellent ability in knowledge application.
5. Excellent collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

Good

(B+, B)

1. Good command of knowledge concerning the relevant subject.
2. Good critical thinking ability concerning the relevant subject.
3. Good application of theories concerning the subject.
4. Good ability in knowledge application.
5. Good collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

1. Marginal command of knowledge concerning the subject.
2. Marginal critical thinking ability concerning the relevant subject.
3. Marginal application of theories concerning the relevant subject.
4. Marginally acceptable ability in knowledge application.
5. Marginally acceptable collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

Failure

(F)

1. Unsatisfactory command of knowledge.
2. Unsatisfactory critical thinking ability concerning the relevant subject.
3. Unsatisfactory application of theories concerning the relevant subject.
4. Unsatisfactory ability in knowledge application.
5. Unsatisfactory collaborative skills and interactions with the fellow classmates.

Assessment Task

In-class discussions and questions in lectures and tutorials, and peer review of tutorial presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

In-class discussions and questions in both lecture and tutorial classes, and peer review of tutorial presentation as well.

Excellent

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

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to stimulate class discussions and comments;
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Good

(B+, B) Some evidence of:

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussions and comments;
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Marginal

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

Failure

(F) Fail to meet minimum requirements of participation.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

European Sinology; American Sinology; Japanese Sinology; Korean Sinology; East Asian Confucianism; Chinese literature; Chinese thought; Chinese history; world history; history of historiography; historical studies in relation to intellectual history; historical philosophy.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	N/A

Additional Readings

Title	
1	N/A