

CAH8807: RESEARCH METHODS FOR HUMANITIES STUDIES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Research Methods for Humanities Studies

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

8807

Academic Unit

Chinese and History (CAH)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

R8 - Research Degree

Medium of Instruction

Chinese (Cantonese or Putonghua)

Medium of Assessment

Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CAH8808 Research Methods for Chinese Studies

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

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 humanities studies. In addition, research ethics will also be addressed in this course.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Identify the main issues, theories, methods and trends in the field of humanities studies, as well as the leading scholars and their works in the field		x		
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			x	
3	Critically analyse and evaluate previous research works		x		x
4	Argue the problems and constraints scholars often encounter in conducting research			x	
5	Apply appropriate research methods and strategies in doing research on their chosen topics		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	Seminars	Meeting and interactive discussion on special topics, research methods and materials	1, 2	Students are required to attend 5 seminars during the semester.
2	Research Proposal	Analyse issues and apply methodology to potential research paper	3, 4	

3	Research Paper	Criticize research works, data collection, and textual analysis in preparation for long-term thesis	5	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Seminar participation and discussion	1, 2	25	-	No
2	Research Proposal	3, 4	25	Students are required to submit 1 research proposal.	No
3	Research Paper	5	50	Students are required to submit 1 research paper at the end of the semester.	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

Preparation for discussion and presentation; demonstration of a basic knowledge of the field

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate good and critical understanding of the field and literature; providing good research strategy and literature research for a potential topic; excellent oral report

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate fairly good and general understanding of the field and literature; have a general grasp of a potential research topic; fair oral report

Fair

(C+, C, C-) General and just adequate performance in every aspect of assessment

Marginal

(D) Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment

Failure

(F) Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Grade on content, research methodology, and potential leading to a significant paper

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of sound methodologies and scholarship of the field; potential for doing a research of originality

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate fairly good and general understanding of the field and adequate methodologies

Fair

(C+, C, C-) General and just adequate performance in every aspect of assessment

Marginal

(D) Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment

Failure

(F) Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Grade on quality of research work done, writing skills, organization, and overall contribution to the field

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Good arguments, organizations and writing skills to present research findings combined with sound methodology and scholarship leading to a significant piece of scholarship

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate fairly good and general quality of research writing in organization, argument, and methodology

Fair

(C+, C, C-) General and just adequate performance in every aspect of assessment

Marginal

(D) Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment

Failure

(F) Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment

Assessment Task

Seminars participation and discussion (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Preparation for discussion and presentation; demonstration of a basic knowledge of the field

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate good and critical understanding of the field and literature; providing good research strategy and literature research for a potential topic; excellent oral report

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate fairly good and general understanding of the field and literature; have a general grasp of a potential research topic; fair oral report

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment

Failure

(F) Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Grade on content, research methodology, and potential leading to a significant paper

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(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of sound methodologies and scholarship of the field; potential for doing a research of originality

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Assessment Task

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

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Grade on quality of research work done, writing skills, organization, and overall contribution to the field

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Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate fairly good and general quality of research writing in organization, argument, and methodology

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Unsatisfactory in every aspect of assessment

Failure

(F) Fail to demonstrate enough work to fulfil every aspect of assessment

Additional Information for AR

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 Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

archive, argument formation, arts, Chinese literature, cultural heritage, culture, data collection, data gathering, database, document, history, humanities, literature review, methodology, philosophy, primary sources, research design, research paradigm, review article, textual analysis, textual criticism

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Recommended by supervisor
2	Research Guide for Chinese Studies < http://guides.library.harvard.edu/Chinese >
3	A guide to selected digital resources for conducting research in Chinese Studies < http://guides.lib.umich.edu/chinesestudies >
4	Chinese Studies - Authoritative Research Guide < http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/obo/page/chinese-studies >

Additional Readings

Title	
1	N/A