

CAH1603: GREAT WORKS IN THE HUMANITIES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Great Works in the Humanities

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

1603

Academic Unit

Chinese and History (CAH)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CLA1702 Cultural China

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

To enhance students' understanding of the basic knowledge in the field of humanities, this course offers a study of selected great works in literature, history, philosophy, art, music etc that shaped and represented the disciplines in the

humanities. They may be ancient or modern, as well as East or West but have been greatly influential across the centuries, and continue to influence the way we think and act. By reading and explaining the works, the life and time of the authors, the important ideas and the influences of the great works will be discussed. Students will learn to explore the origins and developments of the selected great works. They will also learn how to discover and analyse the features and significances of the selected great works and take these ideas as the starting point for debate.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Recognise the selected great works and their context, genre and major characteristics	25	x		
2	Explain the contents of the selected great works	25	x		
3	Analyse the core values and ideas of the selected great works	25		x	
4	Apply the knowledge learned from the course to discuss the core issues in humanities.	25			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 lecture activities about the context, genre and major characteristics of a selected great work.	1, 2	
2	Tests	Students will participate one Mid-term test and one final test.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Group project	Students will participate in group presentations to develop their skills in articulating, organizing, and arguing specific topics.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Group Project: Students will participate in group presentations to develop their skills in articulating, organizing, and arguing specific topics.	1, 2, 3	30	-	Yes
2	Mid-term test: students have to show their understanding of the key topics in the middle of the semester.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No
3	Final test: students have to show their understanding of the key topics at the end of the semester.	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Group projects

Criterion

Students will participate in group presentations to develop their skills in articulating, organizing, and arguing specific topics.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Excellent linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Excellent oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Excellent reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Good (B+, B, B-)

1. Good command of knowledge of essential aspects of the assigned topics and readings.
2. Good linguistic competence to explain and assess the main arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Good oral and written presentation skills to demonstrate deliberation of the subject.
4. Good reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

1. Adequate command of the assigned topics and readings.

2. Fair linguistic competence to describe the arguments of the assigned readings.
3. Acceptable oral and written presentation skills to illustrate general view of the subject
4. Fair reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Marginal (D)

1. Familiarity with the assigned topics and readings.
2. Able to describe some important points of the assigned readings.
3. Marginal ability and skills to illustrate general view of the subject.
4. Marginal reflective and discovery ability to address new issues pertaining to the subject.

Failure (F)

Fail to meet minimum requirements of group projects.

Assessment Task

Mid-term test

Criterion

A test will be given to assess students' knowledge and ability in describing, analysing and reflecting on the subject in the middle of the semester.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Deep understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Innovative ideas with convincing demonstration. Good and organized expression.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Deep understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Innovative ideas with convincing demonstration. Good and organized expression.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Innovative ideas with less convincing demonstration.

Marginal (D)

Marginal command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Fair understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Ideas without convincing demonstration.

Failure (F)

Failure to show knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Poor understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Ideas without convincing demonstration.

Assessment Task

Final test

Criterion

A test will be given to assess students' knowledge and ability in describing, analysing and reflecting on the subject at the end of the semester.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Deep understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Innovative ideas with convincing demonstration. Good and organized expression.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Deep understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Innovative ideas with convincing demonstration. Good and organized expression.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Innovative ideas with less convincing demonstration.

Marginal (D)

Marginal command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Fair understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Ideas without convincing demonstration.

Failure (F)

Failure to show knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of the selected great works. Poor understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them. Ideas without convincing demonstration.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Ancient, Modern, East, West, Great works, humanities, idea, Chinese culture, Western culture, literature, history, art, music, philosophy, Renaissance Tragedy, William Shakespeare, Odyssey, Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Karl Marx, Charles Dickens, David Hume, Bertrand Russell, Voltaire, Rousseau, John Locke, Thomas Hobbes.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	“Histories of world literature” (pp. 16-18), “World literature, European literature” (pp. 20-21), and “World literature beyond Europe” (pp. 24-26), in Theo D’haen, <i>The Routledge Concise History of World Literature</i> , London ; New York : Routledge, 2012.
2	“Socrates and Plato” (pp. 35-57) and “Epistemology and Metaphysics” (pp. 257-287), in Andrew Pessin and S. Morris Engel, <i>The Study of Philosophy: A Text with Readings</i> , Seventh Edition, London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Robert Wolff (ed), <i>Ten Great Works of Philosophy</i> , New York: New American Library Inc., 2002.
2	Peter Burke (ed), <i>History and Historians in the 20th Century</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.