

CAH3522: HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF EAST ASIA

Effective Term

Summer Term 2026

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

History and Cultural Heritage of East Asia

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

3522

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

CTL3522 Culture and Heritage of East Asia

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide a fundamental and comprehensive introduction to major cultural aspects and heritage of East Asia, with a thematic focus either on (a) Chinese culture and cultural heritage (including that of Hong Kong and Taiwan), or (b) Korean culture and cultural heritage (including that of Ancient Korean kingdoms and North Korea whenever necessary), or (c) Japanese culture and cultural heritage, depending on the availability of instructor. The culture and cultural heritage shall be examined and analysed in terms of historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological and/or anthropological values. Tangible cultural heritage sites including those recognized as UNESCO World Heritage as well as intangible heritage such as traditions, rituals, art forms, and the relation between traditional and contemporary culture will be examined. The course incorporates the important values of cultural heritage with a cross-cultural view that allows students to identify and describe culture and heritage of East Asia, to develop analytical skills to compare similarities and differences among East Asian countries, and to understand the early cultural exchanges between the East and the West.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Demonstrate a broad knowledge of culture and cultural heritage of East Asia.		x	x	x
2	Discover and analyze the prominent values and implications of cultural heritage of East Asia.			x	x
3	Discuss critically the major similarities and differences between East Asian cultural heritage and students' own cultures.		x	x	x
4	Students to apply their knowledge to the evaluation of heritage artefacts with an informed vocabulary and analytical view.		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	Lectures	Students will learn background knowledge of tangible and intangible cultural heritage of East Asia and will be able to identify and discuss key elements of East Asian culture and heritage and traditions using multimedia.	1, 2	

2	Field trip/guest lecture (wherever applicable)	Students will engage in interactive learning by meeting relevant professionals to broaden the scope of learning.	1, 2	
3	Discussion	Students will engage in in-class discussions to stimulate their active participation and to deepen their knowledge of main concepts of cultural heritage of East Asia.	1, 2, 3	
4	Student in-class activities	Students will develop their analytical skills to reflect on main features of cultural heritage and compare and contrast them within a cross-cultural aspect.	1, 2, 3	
5	Reading and Essay	Students will reinforce their skills of critical analysis using further information and resources for their own research.	4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class Participation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	Yes
2	Write cultural heritage journal and/or paper (minimum length of paper 1,500 words)	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	Yes
3	Quiz and test	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Write cultural heritage journal and/or paper (minimum length of paper 1,500 words)

Criterion

Due on the last day of instruction (minimum length of paper 1,500 words)

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Strong and consistent evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
- The analysis demonstrates an excellent and in-depth understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Superior writing ability that demonstrates substantial and well-grounded theoretical background supported by objective analytical tools.
- Consistently able to make original, insightful, and knowledgeable arguments related to themes.
- Consistently able to reflect on diversity of cultural aspects and cogent cross-cultural approach to compare and analyse distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Excellent class presentation that reflects good communication skills and a comprehensive approach to the topics given; superior grasp of the critical notions; skilful utilization of multi-media presentation tools; concise and comprehensive summary of presentation and discussion.

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.
- The analysis demonstrates a good and relatively in-depth understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Good writing ability that demonstrates relatively substantial and well-grounded theoretical background supported by analytical tools.
- Able to make original, insightful, and knowledgeable arguments related to themes.
- Able to reflect on diversity of cultural aspects and respectably strong cross-cultural approach to compare and analyse distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Class presentation that reflects good communication skills and a comprehensive approach to the topics given; decent grasp of the critical notions; relatively skilful utilization of multi-media presentation tools; concise summary of presentation and discussion.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
- The analysis demonstrates partial and moderate understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Some evidence of writing ability that demonstrates substantial and knowledgeable theoretical background supported by some use of analytical tools.
- Able to demonstrate sufficient and knowledgeable arguments related to themes.
- Able to reflect on some major issues of cultural aspects and a fair understanding of cross-cultural aspects; able to accommodate distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena fairly.
- Class presentation that reflects acceptable communication skills and a respectable approach to the topics given; fair grasp of the critical notions; some skilful utilization of multi-media presentation tools; able to provide a fair summary of presentation and discussion.

Marginal (D)

- Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.
- The analysis demonstrates inadequate and marginal understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Little evidence of writing ability that demonstrates substantial and knowledgeable theoretical background supported by some use of analytical tools.
- Marginally able to demonstrate some weak arguments related to themes.
- Marginally able to reflect on some issues of cultural aspects and inadequate understanding of cross-cultural aspects; little understanding of distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Class presentation that shows poor communication skills and unorganized approach to the topics given; marginal grasp of the critical notions; poor utilization of multi-media presentation tools; to provide inadequate summary of presentation and discussion.

Failure (F)

- Very little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature.
- Demonstrates highly inadequate and very poor understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.

- Very little or no evidence of writing ability that demonstrates substantial and knowledgeable theoretical background supported by use of analytical tools.
 - Demonstrates very weak or groundless arguments related to themes. Shows highly inadequate approaches to issues of cultural aspects and poor or misguided understanding of cross-cultural aspects; very little understanding of distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
 - Class presentation that shows highly inadequate communication skills and very poorly organized approach to the topics given; little or no grasp of the critical notions; little or no utilization of multi-media presentation tools; not able to provide an acceptable level of summary of presentation and discussion.
 - Does not attend class regularly.
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Assessment Task

Quiz and test

Criterion

Quiz and test on lectures and assigned readings

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Strong and consistent evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
- The analysis demonstrates an excellent and in-depth understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture. Superior writing ability that demonstrates substantial and well-grounded theoretical background supported by objective analytical tools.
- Consistently able to make original, insightful, and knowledgeable arguments related to themes.
- Consistently able to reflect on diversity of cultural aspects and cogent cross-cultural approach to compare and analyse distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Excellent class presentation that reflects good communication skills and a comprehensive approach to the topics given; superior grasp of the critical notions; skilful utilization of multi-media presentation tools; concise and comprehensive summary of presentation and discussion.

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.
- The analysis demonstrates a good and relatively in-depth understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Good writing ability that demonstrates relatively substantial and well-grounded theoretical background supported by analytical tools.
- Able to make original, insightful, and knowledgeable arguments related to themes.
- Able to reflect on diversity of cultural aspects and respectably strong cross-cultural approach to compare and analyse distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Class presentation that reflects good communication skills and a comprehensive approach to the topics given; decent grasp of the critical notions; relatively skilful utilization of multi-media presentation tools; concise summary of presentation and discussion.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
- The analysis demonstrates partial and moderate understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Some evidence of writing ability that demonstrates substantial and knowledgeable theoretical background supported by some use of analytical tools.
- Able to demonstrate sufficient and knowledgeable arguments related to themes.
- Able to reflect on some major issues of cultural aspects and a fair understanding of cross-cultural aspects; able to accommodate distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena fairly.
- Class presentation that reflects acceptable communication skills and a respectable approach to the topics given; fair grasp of the critical notions; some skilful utilization of multi-media presentation tools; able to provide a fair summary of presentation and discussion.

Marginal (D)

- Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.
- The analysis demonstrates inadequate and marginal understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Little evidence of writing ability that demonstrates substantial and knowledgeable theoretical background supported by some use of analytical tools.
- Marginally able to demonstrate some weak arguments related to themes.
- Marginally able to reflect on some issues of cultural aspects and inadequate understanding of cross-cultural aspects; little understanding of distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Class presentation that shows poor communication skills and unorganized approach to the topics given; marginal grasp of the critical notions; poor utilization of multi-media presentation tools; to provide inadequate summary of presentation and discussion.

Failure (F)

- Very little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature.
- Demonstrates highly inadequate and very poor understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Very little or no evidence of writing ability that demonstrates substantial and knowledgeable theoretical background supported by use of analytical tools.
- Demonstrates very weak or groundless arguments related to themes.
- Shows highly inadequate approaches to issues of cultural aspects and poor or misguided understanding of cross-cultural aspects; very little understanding of distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Class presentation that shows highly inadequate communication skills and very poorly organized approach to the topics given; little or no grasp of the critical notions; little or no utilization of multi-media presentation tools; not able to provide an acceptable level of summary of presentation and discussion.
- Does not attend class regularly.

Assessment Task**In-class Participation****Criterion**

Active involvement with discussions required

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Strong and consistent evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
- The analysis demonstrates an excellent and in-depth understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Superior writing ability that demonstrates substantial and well-grounded theoretical background supported by objective analytical tools.
- Consistently able to make original, insightful, and knowledgeable arguments related to themes.
- Consistently able to reflect on diversity of cultural aspects and cogent cross-cultural approach to compare and analyse distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Excellent class presentation that reflects good communication skills and a comprehensive approach to the topics given; superior grasp of the critical notions; skilful utilization of multi-media presentation tools; concise and comprehensive summary of presentation and discussion.

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.
- The analysis demonstrates a good and relatively in-depth understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Good writing ability that demonstrates relatively substantial and well-grounded theoretical background supported by analytical tools.
- Able to make original, insightful, and knowledgeable arguments related to themes.
- Able to reflect on diversity of cultural aspects and respectably strong cross-cultural approach to compare and analyse distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.

- Class presentation that reflects good communication skills and a comprehensive approach to the topics given; decent grasp of the critical notions; relatively skilful utilization of multi-media presentation tools; concise summary of presentation and discussion.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
- The analysis demonstrates partial and moderate understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Some evidence of writing ability that demonstrates substantial and knowledgeable theoretical background supported by some use of analytical tools.
- Able to demonstrate sufficient and knowledgeable arguments related to themes.
- Able to reflect on some major issues of cultural aspects and a fair understanding of cross-cultural aspects; able to accommodate distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena fairly.
- Class presentation that reflects acceptable communication skills and a respectable approach to the topics given; fair grasp of the critical notions; some skilful utilization of multi-media presentation tools; able to provide a fair summary of presentation and discussion.

Marginal (D)

- Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.
- The analysis demonstrates inadequate and marginal understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Little evidence of writing ability that demonstrates substantial and knowledgeable theoretical background supported by some use of analytical tools.
- Marginally able to demonstrate some weak arguments related to themes.
- Marginally able to reflect on some issues of cultural aspects and inadequate understanding of cross-cultural aspects; little understanding of distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Class presentation that shows poor communication skills and unorganized approach to the topics given; marginal grasp of the critical notions; poor utilization of multi-media presentation tools; to provide inadequate summary of presentation and discussion.

Failure (F)

- Very little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature.
- Demonstrates highly inadequate and very poor understanding of key concepts regarding East Asian culture.
- Very little or no evidence of writing ability that demonstrates substantial and knowledgeable theoretical background supported by use of analytical tools.
- Demonstrates very weak or groundless arguments related to themes. Shows highly inadequate approaches to issues of cultural aspects and poor or misguided understanding of cross-cultural aspects; very little understanding of distinct and common aspects of cultural phenomena.
- Class presentation that shows highly inadequate communication skills and very poorly organized approach to the topics given; little or no grasp of the critical notions; little or no utilization of multi-media presentation tools; not able to provide an acceptable level of summary of presentation and discussion.
- Does not attend class regularly.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Chinese cultural heritage:

Ming Tombs, Forbidden City, Great Wall, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Mausoleums of the First Emperor of Qin, Dunhuang Caves, Potala Palace, Classical Gardens of Suzhou, Longmen Grottoes, Capital Sites and Tombs of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom, Historic Centre of Macau, Confucianism, Zen (Chan) Buddhism and Buddhist cannons, Taoism, Chinese characters (hanzi) , Chinese cuisine, painting and calligraphy, architecture and siheyuan mansion, Chinese opera, Civil Service Examination (keju) system

Korean cultural heritage:

Tangible/intangible cultural heritage, World Heritage of Korea, (Gyeongju Historic sites, Bulguksa Temple, Sokgulam Grotto, Koryeo Tripitapaka, Changduk Palace, Jongmyo Shrine, Hwasung Fortress, Jeju island Natural sites), National Treasures of Korea, Han' gul (Korean alphabet), Shamanistic ritual Gut, Architecture, Ondol, Kimchi, Traditional Korean cuisine, Jangdok, Hanbok, Art and performance (Koryeo ceradon, Chang, Samulnoli, matang noli, danchung, totem poles), Contemporary Korean Culture and Its Traditional Root

Japanese cultural heritage:

Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area, Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto, Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara Shrines and Temples of Nikko Gusoku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu, Honchisuijakusetsu (The theory in which kami are viewed as temporary manifestations of the essential Buddha, allowing each Shintō deity to be identified with a Buddhist one), Shintoism and the formation of Jinja (Shrine), Influences of Chinese Culture on the Ryukyu Kingdom, Toraijin (people from the Korean Peninsula and China) and their influences on Japanese Culture, Castle and Urbanization, Relationships between the Bakufu and Tennō (emperor), Chōnin (townsmen) Culture. Contemporary Japanese Culture

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	De Bary, Therdore. Ed. Sources of Chinese Tradition. New York: Columbia Univ. Press 1999.
2	Chang, Kwang-chih. The Archaeology of Ancient China. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
3	Rawson, Jessica. Ancient China: Art and Archaeology. London: Book Club Associates, 1980
4	Coaldrake, William H. Architecture and Authority in Japan. London; New York: Routledge, 1996.
5	Craig, Albert M. The Heritage of Japanese Civilization, Prentice Hall, 2003.
6	Earhart, H. Byron. Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity. Victoria, Australia; Belmont, Calif: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2004.
7	Hall, John W (ed.). The Cambridge History of Japan, Vol. 1-6. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
8	Ienaga, Saburo. Japanese Art: A Cultural Appreciation, New York, Weatherhill, 1979.
9	Pilgrim, Richard B. Buddhism and the Arts of Japan. Chambersburg, Pa.: AnimaBooks, 1993.
10	Sadao, Tsuneko S. and Wada, Stephanie. Discovering the Arts of Japan: A Historical Overview. Tokyo; New York: Kodansha International, 2003.
11	Singer, Kurt. The Life of Ancient Japan: Selected Contemporary Texts Illustrating Social Life and Ideals before the Era of Seclusion. Richmond, Surrey: Japan Library, 2002.
12	Turnbull, Stephen. Samurai Warfare. London: Arms and Armour Press, 1996.
13	Yashiro, Yukio. The Heritage of Japanese Art, Tokyo, Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai, 1960.
14	Yusa, Michiko. Japanese Religious Traditions. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2002.
15	Penelope Mason. History of Japanese Art, 2nd edition. Upper Saddle River, 2005.
16	http://www.unesco.jp/contents/isan/jlist.html
17	http://bunka.nii.ac.jp/jp/world/h_index.html
18	Guide to Korean Cultural Heritage. Hollym. 2003.
19	Korean Cultural Heritage 1: Seen through pictures and names. Sigong Tech Co./Korea Visual Co. 2002.
20	Korean Cultural Heritage 2: Seen through pictures and names. Sigong Tech Co./Korea Visual Co. 2002.
21	An Illustrated Guide to Korean Culture: 233 traditional key words. The National Academy of the Korean Language. Hakjojae. 2002.
22	Lee, E-Wha. Korea' s Past times and Customs: A Social History. Homa & Sekey Books, 2001.
23	http://www.korea.net/
24	http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/index.kto
25	http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/kr

26	http://www.emuseum.go.kr/eng/her/her_01.jsp
27	http://www.heritage.go.kr/index.jsp

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil