

CAH4853: HISTORY OF CHINESE HISTORIOGRAPHY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

History of Chinese Historiography

Subject Code

CAH - Chinese and History

Course Number

4853

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

Chinese

Medium of Assessment

Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Historiography offers an in-depth understanding of "doing History". This course explores the most important thinkers and historians on Chinese historical writing and inquiry since the pre-Qin period. It examines ideas that have had a major impact on the writing of Chinese history. It also emphasises the relationship among politics, intellectual thought, culture, and historical writing in the official and non-official sectors. Furthermore, the compilation and structure of official histories, classification of historical texts, reliability of historical records, differences between official and public histories etc. will be discussed.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Discern major themes, problems, and controversies that serve as threads running through the history of Chinese historiography.	25	x		
2	Relate to themes in politics, thoughts, culture, and historical writing in traditional China	25	x		
3	Gain the ability to analyse academic works of historiography and historiographic debates	25		x	
4	Identify and reflect on the characteristics of historical writing in traditional China	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 participate in in-class learning activities. The activities cover facts, ideas, themes, theories and research findings, and are designed to: (a) illustrate the key events and themes in Chinese history; (b) discuss with the students fundamental knowledge of relevant Chinese historical and documentary sources; (c) examine the overall historical themes in them. Interactive in-class activities with team-based learning elements are also included.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Reading	Students will familiarise themselves with books and articles related to the course topics, and reflect on their content.	3, 4	
3	Group Presentations and Related Activities	Students will participate in group discussions and presentations. Students will show their analytical skills and their understanding of assigned readings. Students form small groups to present about an assigned topic. Teachers will assess and grade the presentation groups according to their performance.	2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Class activities: in these, students will demonstrate that they understand about the major themes, concepts, and knowledge. They should contribute to the discussion and activities by raising good questions, expanding their perspectives, and challenging assumptions when appropriate.	1, 2	10	The evaluation of texts and historical sources is core to this assessment task, and learning to evaluate of AI-generated outputs is a relevant skill. Adequate explanation of the parameters of AI use for this and ample guidance will be provided.	Yes
2	Individual Paper (min. 2500 words): students will write a final paper on selected topic(s) in an academic manner. Students will come up their own arguments originally, use historical sources properly, and apply the appropriate research methods and theoretical frameworks.	3, 4	30	AI literacy is important for writing a research paper and this assessment task will help build this literacy under the course leader's instructions. Adequate explanation of the parameters of AI use for this and ample guidance will be provided.	Yes
3	Group Presentation: students will present on topics relevant to the course themes, taking into consideration the intellectual context in order to make sound arguments. The content should include proper presentation of evidence, original explanations, sound methodology etc.	1, 3, 4	20	The evaluation of texts and historical sources is core to this assessment task, and learning to evaluate of AI-generated outputs is a relevant skill. Adequate explanation of the parameters of AI use for this and ample guidance will be provided.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Class participation and performance

Criterion

Students actively participate in discussions, debates and other class activities in tutorials and lectures. They should demonstrate an ability to interpret and criticize both insightfully and innovatively.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of:

- Active in-class participation, positive listening, able to simulate class discussion and comment on other points.
- 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, able to initiate class discussion and comment on other points.
- Sufficient pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited evidence of :

- Active in-class participation, listening comprehension, able to participate in class discussion and comment on other points.
- 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

Final Paper

Criterion

This assessment will grade on content, organization and fluency. Students should demonstrate the ability to utilize primary and secondary sources properly, deliver argument and analyse critically, apply research methods skilfully, as well as conclude in a convincing and creative manner.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of :

- Rich content, ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition;
- Creative, and insightful ideas
- Able to interpret the opinions originally;
- Sufficient and organized references which can be utilized in accordance with the topic.

- Exact and fluent expression, good sense of context, able to use various research methods and writing skills to make the paper convincing with proper diction.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Some evidence of :

- Rich content, ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition;
- Creative and insightful ideas
- Able to interpret the opinions originally;
- Sufficient and organized references which can be utilized in accordance with the topic.
- Exact and fluent expression, good sense of context, able to use various writing skills to make the paper convincing with proper diction.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited evidence of :

- Rich content, ability to integrate various resources into primary and secondary levels based on demand;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition;
- Creative and insightful ideas
- Able to interpret the opinions originally;
- Sufficient and organized references which can be utilized in accordance with the topic.
- Exact and fluent expression, good sense of context, able to use various writing skills to make the paper convincing with proper diction.

Marginal (D)

- Adequate content, ability to integrate resources generally based on demand, limited or irrelevant use of resources;
- Loose organization;
- Able to express relevant points to the subject matter;
- References are insufficient, ability to provide some reasonable personal comments, but no clear demonstration;
- Sentence fluency and diction is acceptable.

Failure (F)

- Vague and devoid of content, weak ability to integrate limited resources;
- Loose organization, without distinct primary and secondary levels;
- Unsystematic ideas which cannot express the subject matter or relevant themes;
- Summary of references, no personal idea and/or unreasonable comment;
- Seriously insufficient/no reference;
- Although expression is not clear, part of the idea can be identified; over- use of existing quotations and relevant research.

Assessment Task

Presentation

Criterion

This assessment will grade on content and fluency of presentation as well as the organisation and coherence of the assignment. The group delivering the presentation must have thoroughly studied and researched their topic and worked as a team on the collection, reading, selection, integration, analysis of the resources. They should lead classmates into the discussion, to explain with rich content and excellent grasp of the materials with in-depth or extensive knowledge of the subject matter. They should demonstrate rigorous organization, coherent structure, balanced composition and an ability to criticize and analyse with cogent arguments and creative comments.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of:

- Rich content, excellent grasp of the materials with in-depth or extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, balanced composition;
- Critical analysis, convincing statement and creative comment;

- Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management

Good (B+, B, B-)

Some evidence of:

- Rich content, excellent grasp of the materials with in-depth or extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, balanced composition;
- Critical analysis, convincing statement and creative comment;
- Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited evidence of:

- Rich content, excellent grasp of the materials with in-depth or extensive knowledge of the subject matter;
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, balanced composition;
- Critical analysis, convincing statement and creative comment;
- Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management.

Marginal (D)

- Loose organization, but acceptable identified content.
- Adequate understanding of the reading and indication of grasp of the general ideas, limited or irrelevant use of reading materials;
- Simple and unilateral comments, without clear explanation;
- Acceptable pronunciation and expression; few of mistakes in diction, but no influence to general delivery.

Failure (F)

- Limited familiarity with the facts of the reading and its surface relations, unsystematic ideas which cannot express the subject matter or relevant themes;
- Loose organization, without distinct primary and secondary structure;
- Devoid of personal comment and/or unreasonable opinion;
- Overly soft voice, indistinct pronunciation and improper diction, seriously over time.

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

An examination will be given to assess students' knowledge and ability in describing, analysing and reflecting on the subject.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Excellent command of knowledge, skills and understanding in lectures of ancient Chinese history.
- 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 ancient Chinese history.
- 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 ancient Chinese history.
- 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 ancient Chinese history.

- 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 ancient Chinese history.
- Poor understanding of concepts and key ideas and connections between them
- Ideas without convincing demonstration

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Historiography, historians, historical writing and inquiry, Han dyansty, Sima Qian, Shiji, Hanshu, Sanguozhi, Huahanshu, Shi Tong, Wenshi Tongyi, Xin Tang Shu, Jiu Tang Shu, Chinese history, official histories, historical records, historical sources, etc.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	金毓黻，《中國史學史》，北京：中華書局，1962。
2	司馬遷，《史記》，北京：中華書局，1959。
3	班固，《漢書》，北京：中華書局，1962。
4	陳壽：《三國志》，北京：中華書局，2006-09。
5	歐陽修、宋祁，《新唐書》，北京：中華書局，1975。
6	白壽彝主編，《中國史學史》，上海：上海人民出版社，2006。
7	張孟倫，《中國史學史》，蘭州：甘肅人民出版社，1983。
8	瞿東林編，《中國史學史研究》，武漢：湖北教育出版社，2006。
9	杜維運、黃進興編，《中國史學史論文選集》，台北：華世出版社，1976。
10	劉知幾，《史通》，上海：上海古籍出版社，1978。
11	司馬光：《資治通鑑》，上海：上海人民出版社，1977。
12	馬端臨：《文獻通考》，北京：中華書局，2011。

Additional Readings

Title	
1	張越主編，《中國史學史資料匯編》，北京：北京師範大學出版社，2009。
2	楊翼驥編，《中國史學史資料編年》，天津：南開大學出版社，1987。
3	遼耀東，《抑鬱與超越：司馬遷與漢武帝時代》，台北：東大圖書，2007。
4	張大石，《史記文獻研究》，北京：民族出版社，1999。