HUMA2400 Approaches to Humanities in China Studies:
Research Methods and the Humanities of Love, Hatred, Life and Death

I. Instructors
Philosophy: Professor Eric Nelson (eric.nelson@ust.hk)
History: Professor Billy So (billyso@ust.hk)
Art History: Professor Flora Fu (hmltfu@ust.hk)
TA: Lai Wan Yin Dorothy (wylaiaf@connect.ust.hk)

II. Class Schedule
2 February – 9 March 2018: LTK
12 March – 6 April 2018: Room 4334 (Lift 3)
9 April – 7 May 2018: LTK
  • Monday 15:00-16:20
  • Friday 10:30-11:50

Details of the Class Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Introduction (So)</td>
<td>Friday Feb 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>at LTK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy module (Nelson)</td>
<td>Monday Feb 5; Friday Feb 9; Monday Feb 12; Friday Feb 16; Monday Feb 19; Friday Feb 23; Monday Feb 26; Friday Mar 2; Monday Mar 5; Friday Mar 9 (8 sessions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>at LTK</td>
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<tr>
<td>History module (So)</td>
<td>Monday Mar 12; Friday Mar 16; Monday Mar 19; Friday Mar 23; Monday Mar 26; Friday Mar 30; Monday Apr 2; Friday Apr 6 (6 sessions)</td>
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<td>at Rm 4334 (Lift 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts module (Fu)</td>
<td>Monday Apr 9; Friday Apr 13; Monday Apr 16; Friday Apr 20; Monday Apr 23; Friday Apr 27; Monday Apr 30; Friday May 4 (8 sessions)</td>
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<td>at LTK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concluding session (So)</td>
<td>Monday May 7</td>
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<td>at LTK</td>
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III. Course Description
This course is designed to train students with the skills of academic research in the field of humanities in general, but with special reference to anthropology, arts/art history, history, linguistics, literature, and philosophy of China, in particular. Students’ attention will be
drawn to the issues of research methods in each discipline, such as (1) What constitute data or source materials? (2) How and where to collect them? (3) How data/ source materials are processed and analyzed? (4) What research questions are asked? (5) What conceptual and theoretical approaches are applied? By focusing on the common human experiences of love, hatred, life and death, and how they are studied in each discipline, students will be guided to compare various discipline-based distinctive approaches to humanities in China Studies.

There are six modules corresponding to the six disciplinary areas. They are divided into two groups: Group (1) Anthropology, Linguistics and Literature; and Group (2) Philosophy, History, and Arts/Art History. The two groups will be covered alternatively in the course, normally offered in the spring semester of each academic year.

In Spring 2018, the second group of modules in Philosophy, History, and Arts will be covered.

English is the teaching medium of the course.

**IV. Intended Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Comprehend the basic research methods of philosophy, history, and art history;
2. Understand human endeavors and appreciate their creative expressions through the different approaches to Humanities in China studies;
3. Develop cultural sensitivity toward human experiences and conditions;
4. Write a research proposal used in application for admission to a master’s program

**V. Course Requirements**

Requirements consist of (a) participating at lectures, tutorials and in-class group task/discussion; (b) studying the required readings, and viewing videoed lectures before class as assigned; (c) taking 3 quizzes; and (d) submitting a research proposal.

Regarding (d), students are required to write a research proposal on any topic in one of the three disciplines (History, Philosophy, and Art History) the student is assumed to do some research on. Students will draw lots to decide which of the three disciplines their topic should build upon. This proposal should be treated as an application for admission to a master’s program. A guide to the preparation for the proposal is available from on the HUMA course website and in the Canvas site of this course.

The due date of the research proposal depends on which disciplines. See *Guide to Research Proposal*. It must be submitted by uploading to the course Canvas site. Late submission will not be marked.

**VI. Grading**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Marks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes for three modules:</td>
<td>25 marks x 3 = 75 marks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in lectures and tutorials:</td>
<td>5 marks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research proposal:</td>
<td>20 marks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 marks</strong></td>
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VII. Topics and Readings

1. Course Introduction (Prof Billy So)
Friday Feb 2
Introduction of the instructors, the syllabus, and the requirements; explanation of the meaning of “approach” and its application to humanities in China Studies, in particular philosophy, history, and arts; explanation of the unifying themes of Love, Hatred, and Life and Death (LHLD) and they relationship with the fundamental values of Truth, Good, and Beauty. Also, some briefing on the assignment of research proposal.

2. Module of Philosophy (Prof Eric Nelson)

Monday Feb 5
Topic: Introduction to Philosophical Research and Human Nature and the Good I
1. Mengzi and Gaozi – Does ethics violate human nature?

Required Readings: Mencius, Gaozi II

Friday Feb 9
Topic: Human Nature and the Good II
2. Mengzi and Xunzi – Is human nature good or bad?

Required Readings: Mencius, Gaozi I, and Xunzi, “Human Nature is bad”

Monday Feb 12
Topic: Suffering, Death, and the Emotions I
1. Zhuangzi – Nourishing Life and Accepting Death

Required Readings: Selections from Zhuangzi

Public Holidays: Friday Feb 16; Monday Feb 19

Friday Feb 23
Topic: Suffering, Death, and the Emotions II
2. The Buddha – Suffering, Attachment, and Awakening

Required Readings: The Greater Discourse on the Destruction of Craving (Mahatanhasankhaya Sutta)
Monday Feb 26
Topic: Suffering, Death, and the Emotions III
3. The Korean Debate between Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism (Jeong Dojoen and Gihwa)

Required Readings: Selections from Korea's Great Buddhist-Confucian Debate: The Treatises of Chong Tojon (Sambong) and Hamho Tuktong (Kihwa) (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2015).


Friday Mar 2
Topic: Intercultural Philosophy I
Leibniz and the Enlightenment Reception of Chinese Philosophy

Required Readings: Leibniz, preface to the Novissima Sinica (1697)


Monday Mar 5
Topic: Intercultural Philosophy II
The New Confucian Manifesto: Can there be a Modern Confucianism?


Friday Mar 9
Philosophy Module Quiz
3. Module of History (Prof Billy So)

This module uses a blended learning and teaching mode combining online teaching and classroom small group activities where students will play the role of active learner. Videoed lectures and their PPTs will be uploaded to the Canvas course site at least three weeks before the designated class. Flipped classroom activities will take place in L1 (Mar 12), L2 (Mar 16), L3 (Mar 19), and L4 (Mar 23). These activities, required readings, and the lectures are important materials for the History Module Quiz.

Monday Mar 12 (L1) and Friday Mar 16 (L2)
Topic for L1 and L2: Historical narrative as an approach to understanding history and how to study the historical truth of self-interest and trust in the contexts of profit and politics.

Students need to view videoed lectures VL1 and VL2 before Mar 12 (L1) lecture.


Recommended Reading: (1) Alun Munslow, Narrative and History (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).[not available at HKUST library]

Monday Mar 19 (L3) and Friday Mar 23 (L4)
Topic for L3 and L4: How to study the historical truth of hatred and conflict in social, racial, economic, and political contexts.

Students need to view videoed lecture VL3 before Mar 19 (L3) lecture.

Required Reading: (1) Billy K. L. So, Prosperity, Region, and Institutions in Maritime China: The South Fukien Pattern, 946-1368 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U Pres, 2000), chaps.4-5; and

Monday Mar 26 (L5)


Public Holidays: Friday Mar 30; Monday Apr 2

Friday Apr 6
*History Module Rounding Up and Quiz*

4. Module of Arts (Prof Flora Fu)

April 9 (Mon)
Topic: What is Art Historical Research?

April 13 (Fri)
Topic: Representing Life and Death I


April 16 (Mon)
Topic: Representing Life and Death II

April 20 (Fri)
Topic: Picturing Love and Beauty I


April 23 (Mon)
Topic: Picturing Love and Beauty II


April 27 (Fri)
Topic: Visualizing Hatred and Negative Emotions I:


April 30 (Mon)
Topic: Visualizing Hatred and Negative Emotions II:


May 4 (Fri)
Arts Module Quiz

5. Concluding session (Prof Billy So)

May 7 (Mon)