

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

愛、恨、生、死與人文學研究方法

Mon & Wed 9:00-10:20; Room 6591 (Lift 31-32)

I. Instructors and TA

Instructors

Discipline	Professor	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hrs
Anthropology	LIU Tik-sang 廖迪生	hmtsliu@ust.hk	23587799	3333	Wed 14:30 - 16:00 Thur 10:00 - 11:30
Linguistics	SUN Jingtao 孫景濤	hmjtsun@ust.hk	23587795	3353	Wed & Fri 10:30-11:50
Literature	SHAW May-yi 邵梅儀	myshaw@ust.hk	23585943	3350	Mon & Wed 10:30-11:30

Teaching Assistant

Discipline	TA	Email	Room	Office Hrs
Anthropology	ZHANG Yu Herbary 張宇	herbary.zhang@connect.ust.hk	3003	Mon 11am-12pm

II. 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, history, linguistics, literature, and philosophy of China, in particular. The course will pay attention to the following few key questions

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- 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 the distinctive approaches to humanities in China Studies.

The six modules corresponding to the six disciplinary areas will be divided into two groups:

- Group 1 – Anthropology, Linguistics and Literature
- Group 2 – Arts, History, and Philosophy

The two groups will be covered **alternatively** in the course, which is offered in the spring semester of each academic year. **In Spring 2019, Group 1 will be covered.**

III. Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should be able to –

- Comprehend the basic research methods of particular disciplines in Humanities;
- Understand human endeavors and appreciate their creative expressions through the different approaches to Humanities in China studies;
- Develop cultural sensitivity toward human experiences and conditions;
- Write a research proposal with a basic framework related to research methods

IV. Course Assessment & Requirements

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • 3 module quizzes | 20 marks x 3 = 60 marks |
| • Attendance at lectures & tutorials | 10 marks |
| • Research proposal | 30 marks |
| • Total: | 100 marks |

Please note that attendance at lectures and tutorials will be counted as students fulfilling **90% of the course meeting hours**. In other words, you can afford to miss a class or two but still receive full 10 marks on this assessment criterion, as long as you attend 90% or above of the course meeting hours.

Students are required to write a **research proposal** on a topic that relates to ONE of the three disciplines covered in this semester – i.e. anthropology, linguistics or literature.

The respective discipline that the research proposal should cover will be decided by first **soliciting students' disciplinary preference**. If too many students choose one particular discipline over the others, **lot-drawing** will be conducted to finalize the result. Students, however, are welcome to “trade” with another classmate if he or she intends to work on a research proposal on a discipline that is not assigned by lot-drawing.

Research proposal deadline – May 29 at 23:59pm; Canvas submission.

V. Class Schedule, Topics and Readings

Module	Dates
General (3 sessions)	Jan 30 – Opening May 6 – Course Summary May 8 – Research Proposal Q&A
Anthropology (7 sessions)	Feb 4, 11, 18, 20, 25, 27, Mar 4
Linguistics (7 sessions)	Mar 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27
Literature (7 sessions)	Apr 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 29
No Class	Feb 6 & 13 Apr 22 & May 1

1) Course introduction (attended by all instructors)

Jan 30

- Explain the syllabus
- Major components of research method
- Framework for cross-disciplinary comparison of research methods
- Explain the requirement of writing a research proposal

2) Module of Anthropology

Feb 4

- **Topic: How to study Chinese Life Cycle?: An anthropological method**
- **Required Readings:**
Peoples, James and Garrick Bailey. 2012. *Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology* (International Edition) (9th ed.). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (Chapter 5: Methods of Investigation, Chapter 10: Enculturation and the Life Course)
- **Reference Readings:**
Crane, Julia G. and Michael V. Angrosino. 1992. *Field Projects in Anthropology: A Student Handbook*. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press.
Liu, Tik-sang. 2013. "Approaches in Understanding Heritage." In *A Study of Cultural Heritage: (1) Theory and Practice*. Tik-sang Liu ed., pp. 137-150. Hong Kong: Personal, Social and Humanities Education, Education Bureau.

Feb 11 & 18

- **Topic: Love and Engagement**
- **Required Readings:**

Wolf, Arthur P. 1966. "Childhood Association, Sexual Attraction, and the Incest Taboo: A Chinese Case." *American Anthropologist*, 68:883-898.

Topley, Marjorie. 1975. "Marriage Resistance in Rural Kwangtung." In *Women in Chinese Society*, Margery Wolf and Roxanne Witke, eds., pp. 67-88. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Peoples, James and Garrick Bailey. 2012. *Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology* (International Edition) (9th ed.). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (Chapter 8: Marriage and Families, Chapter 9: Kinship and Descent)

- **Reference Readings:**

Yan, Yunxiang. 2002. "Courtship, Love and Premarital Sex in a North China Village." *The China Journal*, 48:29-53

Feb 20 & 25

- **Topic: Life**

- **Required Readings:**

Cohen, Myron L. 1970. "Developmental Process in the Chinese Domestic Group." In *Family and Kinship in Chinese Society*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Watson, Rubie S. 1986. "The Named and the Nameless: Gender and Person in Chinese Society." *American Ethnologist*, 13(4): 619-631.

Peoples, James and Garrick Bailey. 2012. *Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology* (International Edition) (9th ed.). Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (Chapter 11: Gender in Comparative Perspective)

- **Reference Readings:**

Ahern, Emily M. 1978. "The Power and Pollution of Chinese Women." In *Studies in Chinese Society*, ed. Arthur P. Wolf. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 269-290.

Wolf, Margery. 1972. *Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Feb 27 & Mar 4

- **Topic: Death**

- **Required Readings:**

Watson, James L. 1982. "Of Flesh and Bones: The Management of Death pollution in Cantonese Society." In *Death and the Regeneration of Life*, eds. Maurice Bloch & Jonathan Parry. London: Cambridge University Press, pp. 155-86.

Watson, Rubie S. 1988. "Remembering the Dead: Graves and Politics in Southeastern China." In *Death Ritual in Late Imperial and Modern China*, eds. James Watson and Evelyn Rawski. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 203-227.

- **Reference Readings:**

Potter, Jack M. 1970. "Land and Lineage in Traditional China." In *Family and Kinship in Chinese Society*, ed. Maurice Freedman. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Potter, Jack M. 1970. "Wind, Water, Bones, and Souls: The Religious World of the

Cantonese Peasant." *Journal of Oriental Studies*, vol. 8, pp. 139-53.

Anthropology Module Quiz – Mar 4 (Wed)

3) Module of Linguistics

Mar 6, 11, 13, 18

- **Topic: Love, Life, History and Culture seen in Chinese characters**
- **Readings:**

Qiu Xigui. 2000. *Chinese Writing*, translated by Gilbert Louis Mattos, Jerry Norman, Early China Special Monograph Series, No. 4. Berkeley: Publications, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2000. Chapter 6 & 7.

Rogers, Henry. 2005. *Writing Systems: A Linguistic Approach*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. Chapter 1.

Taylor, Insup and M. Martin Taylor. *Writing and Literacy in Chinese, Korean and Japanese*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company. Chapter. pp65-68.

Goddard, Cliff. 2005. *The Languages of East and Southeast Asia: An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 6.

Mar 20, 25, 27

- **Topic: Phonetic symbolism: Inherent association of sounds with various senses**
- **Readings:**

Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman and Nina Hyams. 2014. *An Introduction to Language*, Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. Chapter 5.

Jakobson, Roman 1990. The Spell of the Speech Sound. *On Language*. Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, 1990: 422-447.

Jakobson, Roman 1990. Why "Mama" and "Papa"?, *On Language*. Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, 1990: 305-311.

Lin, Yen-Hwei 2007. *The Sound of Chinese*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapers 2, 3 and 4.

Linguistic Module Quiz – Mar 27 (Wed)

4) Module of Literature

Apr 1 & 3

- **Topic: A Biographical Research on Love**
- **Readings:**

Hsia, C.T. "Introduction" and "Chapter 15 – Eileen Chang." In *A History of Modern Chinese Fiction*. Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 1999.

Apr 8 & 10

- **Topic: The Art of Everyday Life**
- **Readings:**

Lee, Leo Ou-fan, "Remapping Shanghai." In *Shanghai Modern: The Flowering of a New Urban*

Culture in China. Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1999.

Apr 15 & 17

- **Topic: On Writing History & Memory**

- **Readings:**

Wang, David Der-wei, "Chapter 5 – Of Scars and National Memory." In *The Monster That Is History: History, Violence, and Fictional Writing in 20th-Century China*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2004.

Apr 24

- **Topic: Reading One's Hometown**

- **Readings:**

Selected poems from Leung, Ping-kwan. *City at the End of Time*. Hong Kong: HKU Press, 2012.

Literature Module Quiz – Apr 29 (Mon)

5) Course Summarization & Research Proposal Q&A

- **May 6** – Course Summary & Concluding (to be attended by all instructors)
- **May 8** – Research Proposal Q&A (please attend the session run by the instructor of the disciplinary field of your research proposal)