I. Course Description:

This is an integrated multidisciplinary course on Chinese culture. It aims at providing students with a broad understanding of the perspectives and methodologies of humanistic studies on Chinese culture across various disciplines, including anthropology, history, linguistics, literature, philosophy, and religion. In each offering of the course, 4 out of 6 humanities disciplines will be offered, with an emphasis placed on the introduction of fundamental concepts and general methodological/theoretical underpinnings of the studies of Chinese culture in humanities. This is a mandatory foundation course for all students in the MA program in Chinese Culture.

II. Course Objectives:

Upon the completion of the course, students may be expected to attain the following attributes:

1) A broad understanding of the nature, scope and value of the studies of Chinese culture in humanities perspectives;
2) Better appreciation of the basic concepts, theories and methods in different humanities disciplines essential to the building of a holistic, dynamic and integrated understanding of Chinese culture;
3) Ability to respond critically to Chinese cultural texts and issues of various nature;
4) Strengthened skills in humanistic inquiry pertaining to Chinese culture, such as questioning, analyzing, interpreting, making connections and constructing arguments.

III. Course Assessment:
1) Attendance & in-class participation: 20%
   Students are expected to complete the reading assignment PRIOR to coming to
class and be ready to discuss and engage in class. All assigned reading materials
are either in electronic form or posted on Canvas, with the full-length books or
additional reference materials placed on reserve in the library under this course
code.

2) 4 short module papers: (1,500-2,000 words each) 80% (20% per module)
   Each module paper should be around 1,500-2,000 words long and is due 3 weeks
after the completion of respective module. The topic of each module paper
varies, depending on the content of individual module and instructor’s
requirement.

IV. Class Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Sept 10, 17, 24</td>
<td>CHAN, Charles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Oct 8, 15, 22</td>
<td>LIU, Tik-sang</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Oct 29, Nov 5, 12</td>
<td>ZHANG, Lawrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Nov 19, 26, Dec 3</td>
<td>MA, Xiaolu</td>
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V. Module Description:

1) Philosophy Module: Chinese Approaches to the Meaning of Life

The three lectures on Chinese philosophy will be devoted to Confucianism, Taoism
and Buddhism, the so-called “Three Teachings”, respectively. Notwithstanding the
frequent interactions among them in the long history of China, they represent three
distinctively different approaches to human predicament and human destiny.
Following a chronological order, each of these lectures will concentrate on some of
the most influential philosophers or representative schools of the three teachings.
Through examining one after the other their metaphysics, philosophical anthropology,
spiritual discipline and ethical theory, the lectures will demonstrate how the three
teachings as a whole distinguish from one another in their views on the very nature of
the ultimate reality, the intricate relationships between that reality and humanity, the
uplifting program through which a union, or a reunion, of them can be achieved and a
fulfilling and noble life attained. It is only on the basis of this comparison can we
begin evaluating what legacies these teachings might leave to posterity.

Sept 10: The Confucian Approach
2) Anthropology Module: Understanding Chinese Culture and Society

One of the key tools for studying human societies in anthropology is fieldwork. Anthropologists live in the community that they study and participate in people’s daily life. Through the method of participant observation, anthropologists collect their field data and to experience the local ways of life. A fieldworker must give up his/her own personal judgement and try to understand how people make their living, how they organize their society, and how they look at the world. Anthropologists adopt the holistic approach, putting the local society in the wider regional and global contexts, to make sense of the data that they have collected. In this section, students will read some selected articles of Chinese societies that associate with three different anthropological topics: fieldwork, lineage organization and popular religion.

Oct 8: Fieldwork

3) History Module: The Meaning of History

History is the study of the past, but the questions we ask and the conclusions we draw are inevitably influenced by the present. Using three important debates as examples, this module is designed to familiarize students with the basic methods of academic inquiry within the discipline of history. Each of the debates discussed in this module touch on a significant question in China’s recent history, with strong implications on China’s society today.

Oct 29: New Qing History

- Ho Ping-ti, “The Significance of the Ch’ing-Period,” Journal of Asian Studies,
26:2 (Feb 1967), 189-95.

- Li Zhiting, “A Righteous View of History”
  http://cmp.hku.hk/2015/04/22/a-righteous-view-of-history/

Nov 5: Social Mobility

- Zhang Weiwei, “Meritocracy Versus Democracy”, NYT,
- Mark Elliott, “The Real China Model”, NYT,
  http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/14/opinion/the-real-china-model.html

Nov 12: Seeds of Capitalism


4) Literature Module: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Literary Studies

Is literary study a stand-alone discipline with a clear or unique methodological approach, or does it require a well-versed understanding of different disciplinary traditions within the field of humanities as a whole? This module will take this question to the heart of its discussion and give special attention to reflecting how modern Chinese literature is approached, understood and articulated in both Chinese
and Western academia.

**Nov 19: Translation**


**Nov 26: Lyricism**


**Dec 3: Cinema**