

**CHES 1000 Introduction to Chinese Studies**  
TERM I, Fall 2020

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Teaching Assistant: Yang Yiwei (yiwei.yang@link.cuhk.edu.hk)  
Lecture/Tutorial: Tuesday 2:30-5:15pm  
Office Hours: By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to major themes in Chinese Studies that examines key questions, problems and approaches to the study of the Chinese world. Lectures and tutorial discussions are designed to inspire first-year students to grapple with major issues, to reflect on how they themselves relate to what is studied, and to begin to explore the wide scope of possibilities inherent to this interdisciplinary major.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the term, students should have:

- grasped several major themes, key questions and approaches to Chinese Studies.
- learned to productively debate and reflect on a series of major issues in the field.
- gained a deeper understanding of their relationship to Chinese Studies and improve their ability to articulate their views in oral and written presentations.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT**

Note-taking	5%	Fieldnotes	5%
Reading Quizzes (5)	10%	Class Participation	15%
In-Class Essays (3)	30%	Group Project	10%
Library Homework	5%	Exploration Paper	20%

**Note-taking:** Each student should have a dedicated course notebook in which to take clear and useful notes on class lectures and discussions. To assess student note-taking skills, all students will submit their notes on the Week 2 lectures to the Teaching Assistant at the end of class to be assessed. Students who receive a mark of lower than 60% on the assignment will be required to meet with the Teaching Assistant and/or Professor Kiely to receive additional tutoring on note-taking. *If the course is being held online, students will submit photo images of their notes to the Teaching Assistant at the end of class as directed.*

**Reading Quizzes:** There will be **five** unannounced reading quizzes on the weekly reading assignments listed in the course schedule. These will consist of four straight-forward “true or false” questions intended to test reading comprehension. Unless a student has received an excused absence from the professor prior to a quiz, there will be no make-up quiz. **All required readings are posted on the course Blackboard site. If the course is being held online, students will be guided to take the quizzes on Zoom’s polling system.**

**In-Class Essays:** There will be three essays that students will write in-class on questions posed by the instructor of that session which relate to the subject matter of the recent classes. Students will have **one-hour** to write in-class on the essay topic. Students may consult their

lecture notes and class readings during this session. *If the course is being held online, students will be required to submit their essays on the course Blackboard site within 10 minutes of the end of the essay writing hour.*

**Library Homework:** As noted in Week 5, students will visit the Main Library and carry out a bibliographic exercise. *If the course is being held online and the library is not open, students will complete the exercise through the library website.*

**Fieldnotes:** Students will submit 1-to-2-page fieldnotes after the group fieldtrip in Week 11. Detailed guidelines on fieldnote taking will be distributed in class in Week 10. **Fieldnotes must be submitted on the course Blackboard site no later than 8pm on the fieldtrip day.** *If the course is being held online, students will be guided on undertaking a “virtual fieldtrip” prepared by Professor Ling.*

**Class Participation:** This will be assessed on the basis of regular attendance, arrival on time for the start of class, and engagement in class discussion. If you miss more than four class sessions without an excused absence from the professor, you will not receive a passing mark for participation. Successful participation also means that you: 1) bring paper copies of the assigned reading to class; 2) listen attentively to the professor and to classmates who have the floor; 3) contribute thoughtful comments and questions; 4) complete all in-class assignments.

**Group Project:** At the start of the course, small groups will be arranged that purposefully reflect the diversity of our first-year class. Each group will meet outside of class to discuss and select a Chinese Studies-related topic of any kind that the members agree they would like to explore together and which can be pursued **outside of libraries and outside of the Chinese University campus somewhere in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Macao or the region** that the group can visit together during the term. Once the group has decided on a topic, they should bring it to Professor Kiely to receive approval and they should seek advice from any of the course instructors with expertise in the subject. All members of the group must, then, jointly participate in the off-campus visit that will emphasize collecting information through on-site observation and interviewing relevant, informed people there. The group will jointly prepare a 15-minute presentation of the findings that will feature video footage of the visited site and the interviewed informants. This presentation will be given by all group members together at the final class sessions of Week 13. *If the course is being held online and it is not safe to conduct fieldwork off-campus, each group will jointly research their subject on the Internet and produce a 15 minute video report.*

**Exploration Essay:** Students will write a final essay of reflection on what has been learned in the course, how this relates to their own interests, and how they propose to explore these interests in the coming years. The conclusion should devote one paragraph to setting personal study goals for the next three years. The essay must be at least 2000 words and no longer than 3000 words, and provide the word count at the end. It should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font, with doubled-spaced lines and standard margins. At the top of the first page, place the essay title, your name and student ID number, the course number, the professor’s name, and the date of submission. This essay must be submitted **twice – first**, to VeriGuide <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p10.htm> (where you will receive a receipt), and, **second**, with the VeriGuide receipt attached and signed, to **the course Blackboard site no later than 5pm on December 8**. Late submissions will be penalized by a reduction of half a letter grade for each day late. You are encouraged to meet with the instructor and/or the Teaching Assistant prior to submitting the paper.

All students should familiarize themselves with university policies and regulations on **HONESTY IN ACADEMIC WORK** and the **DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES** and **PROCEDURES** applicable to breaches of such policies and regulations. See the website: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. Any cases of plagiarism will be severely penalized and reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, which could result in failure or expulsion from the University.

**COURSE RULE:** Switch off and put away all electronic devices during class. *If the course is being held online, you will, naturally, be attending the class through your computer. In the spirit of the original aim to minimize distractions during class time, we ask that you please put your phone away and turn-off any apps that hinder concentration during class sessions.*

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: September 8**

**Introduction: Chinese Studies and You**

Jan Kiely, Ling Minhua, Li Chen, Gao Yunwen

**Week 2: September 15**

**History and Religion**

**Session I (2:30-3:45pm):**

**Why religion is an essential part of China's story**

John Lagerwey

*Reading:*

John Lagerwey, "Introduction," *China, A Religious State*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010, pp. 1-17.

**Session II (4:00-5:15pm):**

**The historical anthropology of Chinese society**

David Faure

*Reading:*

He Xi, "Gods adrift: religious ritual and local society on Naozhou island," in Xi He and David Faure, eds., *The Fisher Folk of Late Imperial and Modern China, an Historical Anthropology of Boat-and-Shed Living*, London: Routledge, 2016, pp. 83-100.

***Submit Handwritten Lecture Notes***

**Week 3: September 22**

**What is Modern in China?**

Jan Kiely

*Homework:*

Watch the 1937 film *Street Angel* 馬路天使 and come to class prepared to discuss it.

**Week 4: September 29**

**On Revolution in China**

Jan Kiely

*Reading:*

Gao Hua, "Forging the 'New Man,'" in *How the Red Sun Rose: The Origins and Development of the Yan'an Rectification Movement, 1930-1945*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, [originally 2000] 2018, pp. 419-448.

***In-Class Essay I***

**Week 5: October 6**

**Approaching Chinese Literature from an Interdisciplinary Perspective**

Gao Yunwen

*Reading:*

Catherine Vance Yeh, "Creating the Urban Beauty: The Shanghai Courtesan in Late Qing Illustrations," in Judith Zeitlin and Lydia Liu, eds., *Writing and Materiality in China: Essays in Honor of Patrick Hanan*, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press. 2003, pp. 397-447.

***Homework Assignment (due Week 6 in class)***

Visit the Main Library on campus and look for one book in each of the following sections:

- 1) General Education Collection on G/F;
- 2) Hong Kong Studies Collection on 1/F;
- 3) Chinese Overseas Collection on 3/F. List the book information of these three items in MLA, APA, or Chicago format.

**Week 6: October 13**

**Engaging with Primary Sources: The Case of the Hong Kong Literature Special Collection**

Gao Yunwen

*Reading:*

Mike Ingham, "Writing on the Margin: Hong Kong English Poetry, Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction," in Xu Xi and Mike Ingham, eds., *City Voices: Hong Kong Writing in English 1945 to the Present*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. 2003, pp. 1-15.

***In-Class Essay II***

**Week 7: October 20**

**Contemporary China: Politics and Film**

**Session I (2:30-3:45pm): Governing China**

Tim Summers

*Reading:*

Joseph Fewsmith and Andrew J. Nathan, "Authoritarian Resilience Revisited: Joseph Fewsmith with Response from Andrew J. Nathan," *Journal of Contemporary China*, 28:116, (2018), pp. 167-179.

**Session II (4:00-5:15pm): Chinese Cinema**

Kristof Van Den Troost

*Reading:*

Hector Rodriguez, "Questions of Chinese Aesthetics: Film Form and Narrative Space in the Cinema of King Hu," *Cinema Journal* 38:1 (1998): 73-97.

*Homework:*

Watch the 1967 film *Dragon Inn* 龍門客棧

**Week 8: October 27**

**China's Economy**

Li Chen

*Reading:*

Barry Naughton, "Is China Socialist?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 31.1 (2017), pp. 1-23.

**Week 9: November 3**

**China's Business Environment**

Li Chen

*Reading:*

Zheng Yongnian and Yanjie Huang, "The Middle Ground: The Nexus between the State and Private Enterprises," in *Market in State: The Political Economy of Domination in China*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018, pp. 298-338.

***In-Class Essay III***

**Week 10: November 10**

**Chinese on the Move I**

Ling Minhua

*Reading:*

Peter Hessler, "China's Instant Cities." *National Geographic*, June 2007, 12 pages.

**Week 11: November 17**

**Chinese on the Move II**

Ling Minhua

*Reading:*

Gordon Mathews, Prelude and Chapter 1, in *Ghetto at the Center of the World: Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011, pp. 7-55.

***Field-Trip & Fieldnotes Assignment***

**Week 12: November 24**

**Group Projects Research Week (no class session)**

**Week 13: December 1**

**Group Project Presentations**

Jan Kiely

Ling Minhua, Li Chen, Gao Yunwen

**Exploration Essay Due on Tuesday December 8 (Tuesday) at 5pm!**