Chinese Studies course descriptions 2020-21

Part IA (first year)

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Descriptions

C.1 Modern Chinese translation and writing 1 (Ms Wu, Dr Yuan)

Supplementary Regulation
This course is to enable students to use basic elements of Chinese grammar correctly, use Chinese over a range of everyday situations, write basic Chinese and translate English into Chinese at the sentence level, and write simple essays in Chinese.

Lectures and Classes
Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter
Total of 100 participatory lectures and 7 supervisions

Form and Conduct
This paper tests candidates’ ability to manipulate modern Chinese. The paper consists of three sections, all of which must be attempted: the first contains questions on grammatical aspects of the Chinese language; the second, sentences for translation into Chinese; and the third, a topic for an essay in Chinese.

C.2 Modern Chinese Texts 1 (Ms Wu, Dr Yuan)

Supplementary Regulation
Modern Chinese is taught intensively throughout the year, and in this paper students are required to translate passages in modern Chinese into English. This paper is mainly designed to assess the student’s ability in understanding and translating simple Chinese texts.

Lectures and Classes
Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter
Total of 60 language classes and 7 supervisions

Form and Conduct
This paper tests candidates’ comprehension of simple Chinese texts. Candidates will be asked to translate three passages into English, at least one of which will be in traditional Chinese characters. All the questions are of equal value.
C.3 Literary Chinese 1 (Professor Sterckx)

Supplementary Regulation
An introduction to the literary Chinese language. The course introduces students to basic vocabulary, syntax, and grammar of the classical period. Excursions are made into the etymology of graphs, the origins of common proverbs and set phrases as well as the intellectual world behind the selected text passages.

Course Description
Guided reading of a selection of passages from the Warring States and early imperial period (5th cent. BC- 2nd cent. AD), accompanied by exercises familiarizing students with the grammar of literary Chinese. Readings include, among others, the Confucian Analects, Sunzi’s Art of War, the Mencius, Xunzi, Mozi, Zhuangzi, Book of Lord Shang and Han Feizi.

Lectures and Classes
Taught in Lent and Easter
Total of 20 participatory lectures and a minimum of 6 supervisions

Form and Conduct
This paper is divided into three sections, all of which must be attempted. Section 1 contains passages in literary Chinese for translation into English. Section 2 contains sentences in literary Chinese for translation into English; candidates will also be asked to comment on the grammar of the sentences. Section 3 contains passages from cognate texts in English for comment.

EAS.1 Introduction to East Asian History (co-ordinator: Professor Adolphson)

Supplementary Regulation
The course covers East Asia thematically from the earliest times to the present, focusing on China, Japan, and Korea. Students will read literature, historical monographs, and primary sources to familiarize themselves with various types of evidence.

Lectures and Classes
Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter
Total of 46 lectures, 14 seminars/workshops and 8 supervisions

Form and Conduct (to be published Michaelmas term 2020)
This paper is assessed by a two-hour examination in Easter Term, and a portfolio of two essays to be selected by the students from among assignments in Michaelmas and Lent Terms. The two essays must cover more than one region. Two hard copies and one electronic copy (pdf) of each essay shall be submitted to the Programmes Administrator in the Faculty Office so as to arrive not later than 5pm on the first Tuesday of Easter Term.

The examination consists of ten questions and is divided into two sections. Students must answer one question from each section.

The essay portfolio will constitute 50% of the final grade and the examination will constitute 50%.

C.0 Oral Examination (Ms Wu, Dr Yuan)
The examination consists of a listening comprehension test and an oral test. All oral tests will be recorded.
Lectures and Classes
Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter
Total of 100 classes and 6 supervisions

Form and Conduct
(a) Listening comprehension test
Candidates will be asked to answer multiple-choice questions in Chinese related to recorded passages read aloud in Chinese, of which the vocabulary and sentence structures are known (40 marks; approximately 30–40 minutes).

(b) Oral text
The candidate will be asked to produce an oral piece of work according to a stimulus provided. Then he or she will be asked to engage in a simple conversation employing vocabulary appropriate to activities of daily life. Finally, there will be a short free conversation between the candidate and the examiners (60 marks; approximately 15 minutes).