

## Chinese Studies course descriptions 2020-21

### Part IA (first year)

Students take the following courses:

- C.1 Modern Chinese translation and writing 1
- C.2 Modern Chinese Texts 1
- C.3 Literary Chinese 1
- EAS.1 Introduction to East Asian History
- C.O Oral Examination

### 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 (5<sup>th</sup> cent. BC- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

The assessment of this paper will consist of two parts, each carrying an equal weight. First, students will select two of their supervision essays to be submitted to a portfolio by the division of Easter term. Students are free to choose any papers for the portfolio, but they must not deal with one and the same area. In other words, the two essays may not both focus only on China, or Japan, but must include at least one paper that deals with a region outside the student's target language. Second, there will be a viva voce examination either in person or virtually.

### **C.O 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).