

## Chinese Studies course descriptions 2020-21

### Part IB (second year)

Students take the following:

Compulsory courses:	C.4 Modern Chinese translation and writing 2 C.5 Modern Chinese Texts 2 C.6 Literary Chinese 2 C.O Oral Examination
Option 1:	One of: C.7 History of dynastic China C.8 Globalization in China
Option 2:	One of the following courses: C.7 History of dynastic China C.8 Globalization in China J.6 Japanese History* J.8 Japanese Literature* J.9 Japanese Society [Not offered 2020-21]* J.10 Japanese Politics* AMES.1 Cinema East X.3 Structures and meanings

For information about the Japanese Studies courses marked with \* see the second year Japanese Studies course descriptions.

### Descriptions

#### C.4 Modern Chinese translation and writing 2 (Ms Wu, Dr Yuan)

##### Supplementary Regulation

This course aims to develop the students' ability to translate English texts into Chinese and to write Chinese compositions of various styles, such as letters, messages, notices, narration.

##### Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter

Total of 20 classes and 7 supervisions

##### Form and Conduct

The paper consists of two English passages for translation into Chinese, and candidates are also required to write on a given topic in Chinese characters. Candidates are required to attempt all questions.

## **C.5 Modern Chinese Texts 2 (Dr Yuan)**

### Supplementary Regulation

This course enables students to read modern Chinese writings, both literary and non-literary. Information about authors, the background, and the linguistic and stylistic features of the texts is provided as appropriate. The purpose is to give students experience of intensive and extensive reading. Students read unabridged texts from beginning to end, thus increasing their vocabulary and familiarity with modern written Chinese and advancing their understanding of aspects of Chinese historical and cultural experience in 20th-century and contemporary China.

### Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter

Total of 60 classes and 7 supervisions

### Form and Conduct

The paper consists of three literary and non-literary passages from unspecified modern Chinese texts for translation into English. Candidates are required to attempt all questions, which are of equal value. Copies of the *Xiandai hanyu cidian* will be provided.

## **C.6 Literary Chinese 2 (Professor Sterckx and Dr Ganany)**

### Supplementary Regulation

An introduction to selected works of poetry, prose, and fiction in literary Chinese. The course draws on texts ranging from early medieval to late imperial times. Students are introduced to the basic features of grammar and genre and the intellectual and historical background of the readings in question.

### Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas and Lent

Total of 32 classes and a minimum of 8 supervisions

### Form and Conduct

This paper contains three sections, all of which must be attempted. Section 1 contains one or more passages from seen texts in literary Chinese for translation into English. Candidates may be asked to comment on the texts in question. Section 2 contains unseen texts for translation into English. Section 3 is a comprehensive reading exercise. Candidates are asked to answer questions, in English, on one or more unseen texts.

## **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 60 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 in Chinese (40 marks; approximately 30–40 minutes).

(b) Oral test

The candidate will first be asked to produce an oral piece of work according to a stimulus provided, and then he or she will be asked to give an impromptu talk in Chinese on a given topic. Finally, there will be a short free conversation in Chinese between the candidate and the examiners (60 marks; approximately 15 minutes).

## **Optional courses**

### **C.7 History of dynastic China (Dr Elias, Dr Galambos and Dr Ganany)**

#### Supplementary Regulation

The history of dynastic China from the Qin through the Qing periods. The course introduces students to many of the formative events and topics of these periods through the use of primary texts (in translation) and select secondary readings. The course explores not only the topics that these texts raise such as the metaphysical foundations of empire, the role of emotion in history, and the construction and reconstruction of identities but also how these texts develop and shape history and the historiographic tradition.

#### Course Description

The course explores a wide range of topics that form the basis of Chinese civilisation, from politics and law in ancient China, through urban life and encounters with foreign cultures in medieval China, to literature and religious practice in late imperial China. Readings for this course include historical surveys, poetry, fiction, painted scrolls, and Buddhist sutras, among other materials.

#### Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas

Total of 14 participatory lectures and 3 supervisions

#### Form and Conduct

This paper will consist of nine questions divided into three sections. Candidates are required to answer at least one question from each section. All questions will be of equal value.

### **C.8 Globalization in China, 1850 to the present (Dr Chau)**

#### Supplementary Regulation

The history of globalization in China from the Taiping Rebellion in the mid nineteenth century until today. For the century after 1850, it will examine the rise of the large vibrant port cities that resulted from the rapid expansion of foreign trade and became centres of social, political, and cultural change. It will also analyse Chinese migration, the emergence of Chinese forms of modernity, the rise of resistance movements to Western financial imperialism, and the effects of revolution and warfare. China's current phase of globalization will be placed against the background of this earlier phase of globalization.

#### Course Description

2020-21 theme: Language and Nation in China and Beyond

#### Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas and Lent

Total of 16 participatory lectures and 3 supervisions

#### Form and Conduct

This paper will be examined by an 8,000-word long essay. Two hard copies and one electronic copy (pdf) giving only the examination entry number of the candidate, shall be submitted to the Faculty Office on the first Thursday of Full Easter Term.

## **AMES.1 Cinema East (Dr Peleg, Dr Young et al)**

### Supplementary Regulation

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore the film traditions of East Asia and the Middle East through a number of possible themes, including modernity, identity and nation, and genre. These broad concerns encompass common themes of comparative significance, such as gender, city and countryside, love, marriage, and family and violence and are expressed in genres such as melodrama.

### Course Description

Cinema was the major globalizing cultural medium of 20th-century modernity, at once transnational and yet deeply embedded in the lived experience of particular societies. East Asian and Middle Eastern countries have developed indigenous and independent film industries since the very early days of cinema, and film has played an important role in the cultural imagination of the different modern nations. The importance of cinema has, if anything, increased in this new century of the internet and a wide area of electronic means of conveying, storing, consuming (and stealing) moving images. All have combined to significantly broaden access to film and film culture for individuals and audiences around the world. Apart from being a subject of study in its own right, film can be an invaluable adjunct to the study of literature and history. It can offer a window on social reality and visual culture, and, like literature, can pose new questions or offer new perspectives. Finally, although this is not a language-based course, it can offer as by-product a record of living voices exercising the widest range of linguistic expression for students working with films from the area of their specialisation.

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### Lectures and Classes

The course will be taught in weekly sessions for a total of 16 weeks (8 each in Michaelmas & Lent terms). Sessions will comprise participatory lectures and seminars, with some content provided in a pre-recorded form. Students may be asked on occasion to lead seminars and make presentations based on the weekly readings that should stimulate discussions about the films viewed and issues that they raise. Each student will also write a minimum of two essays each term. Feedback on these will be given in supervisions or in group discussions.

Taught in Michaelmas and Lent (final supervisions may be held at the beginning of Easter Term)

Total of 16 participatory lectures and seminars, plus 4 supervisions.

### Form and Conduct

The examination paper will consist of ten questions divided between two sections. Candidates will be required to attempt three questions in total, including at least one from each section.

### **X.3 Structures and meanings (Paper Li.2 from the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos)**

For details consult the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics  
[www.mml.cam.ac.uk](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk)

Places on this course are limited. To book a place on the course contact the Undergraduate Programmes Administrator ([ug\\_progadmin@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ug_progadmin@cam.ac.uk))