

Chinese Studies course descriptions 2020-21

Part II (fourth year)

Students are required to have spent a period of at least eight months in China during their third year.

Students take the following:

Compulsory courses:	C.11 Modern Chinese translation and writing 3 C.12 Modern Chinese texts 3 C.O Oral Examination
Students choose two optional courses ¹ :	C.13 Literary Chinese 3 C.15 The Chinese tradition: Chinese Art and Visual Culture C.16 Cultural History of Late-Imperial China C.17 Modern Chinese literature C.20 Contemporary Chinese society C.21 China in the International Order
Students write a dissertation	

Descriptions

C.11 Modern Chinese translation and writing 3 (Ms Wu, Dr Yuan)

Supplementary Regulation

This course enables students (a) to use an extensive range of Chinese vocabulary, idioms, and expressions in translation into Chinese and in Chinese essay writing, (b) to produce appropriate degrees of formality in translating and writing, and (c) to write in Chinese on various topics and in different styles.

Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter

Total of 20 classes and 7 supervisions

Form and Conduct

The paper requires candidates to translate two English texts into Chinese and to write an essay in Chinese on a specified topic. Candidates should attempt all questions.

¹ Two papers chosen from the papers announced by the Faculty Board under Regulation 8, provided that only papers prefixed with C may be chosen. **The Department reserves the right not to offer a paper that is undersubscribed.**
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The Handbook is revised constantly. For the latest version see the Faculty intranet.

C.12 Modern Chinese texts 3 (Dr Yuan)

Supplementary Regulation

The course continues the work done in the acquisition of the modern Chinese language in previous years. Students will be presented with various types of texts, ranging from modern and contemporary fiction, newspapers, and articles on contemporary China, to scholarly writings and government documents.

Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter

Total of 60 classes and 7 supervisions

Form and Conduct

The paper requires candidates to translate all three Chinese texts into English. The first will be a text from a Chinese newspaper, the second will be a literary text, and the third will be a non-fiction text. Candidates will be allowed to use the Chinese-Chinese dictionaries provided.

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 be asked to provide an oral précis of her or his dissertation and answer questions thereon. Then he or she will be asked to discuss a selected topic with the examiners. Finally, there will be a test on English-Chinese interpretation. The selected topics will be posted in the Faculty one working day before the examination (60 marks; approximately 20 minutes).

Optional courses (additional Regulation 8 papers)

C.13 Literary Chinese 3 (Dr Galambos)

Supplementary Regulation

This course features advanced selections of texts in literary Chinese. An effort is made to present a wide variety of texts, including pre-Qin philosophical writings, early medieval narrative literature, Buddhist biographies, Tang and Song poetry, didactic primers, and translations of Western literature into literary Chinese. Students will be introduced to features of grammar and genre as well as the intellectual and historical background of the readings in question.

Course Description

This course introduces advanced selections of prose and poetry in literary Chinese. The course draws on texts ranging from early China to the Republican Period, including pre-Qin

philosophical literature, Tang and Song poetry and Buddhist narratives. Students will be introduced to features of grammar and genre as well as the intellectual and historical background of the readings in question.

Guided reading of texts written in literary Chinese with a close attention to the syntactical structure of the source text. Moreover, emphasis is placed on being able to understand unseen texts. Readings include, among others, the *Zhuangzi*, *Intrigues of the Warring States (Zhanguoce)*, *New Account of the Tales of the World (Shishuo xinyu)*, *Biographies of Eminent Monks (Gaoseng zhuan)*, *Liudu ji jing*, as well as some early translations of Western books into classical Chinese.

Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas and Lent.

Total of 32 participatory lectures and a minimum of 16 supervisions.

Form and Conduct

This paper will contain three sections, all of which must be attempted. Section 1 will contain 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 will contain unseen texts for translation into English. Section 3 is a comprehensive reading exercise. Candidates will be asked to answer questions, in English, on one or more unseen texts.

C.14 Advanced Chinese Texts [Not offered 2020-21]

C.15 The Chinese tradition: Chinese Art and Visual Culture (Dr Elias)

Borrowed by History of Art as their Paper 21

Supplementary Regulation

This course covers Chinese art and material culture stretching from the Neolithic period up to the present with a focus on dynastic and early modern times.

Course Description

This paper examines Chinese art and material culture stretching from the Neolithic period to the present with a focus on dynastic and modern times. It provides an object and theme based learning experience, including lectures on important media and developments in Chinese art as well as handling sessions of Chinese art collections at the Fitzwilliam Museum and the British Museum (Covid circumstances permitting). It explores the making and meaning of Chinese art and how it reflects the culture, religion and philosophy of its period. It also introduces the history of Chinese art collecting in the 20 - 21st centuries and considers current art market trends with an examination of some of the driving forces behind them. Covid circumstances permitting a day trip is planned to visit the British Museum and the Eskenazi Gallery of Chinese Art in London.

Lectures and Classes

Taught in Lent.

Total of 20 participatory lectures, 2 handling sessions, 1 day trip and 4 supervisions.

Form and Conduct

This paper will consist of twelve questions of which candidates will be required to answer three.

C.16 Cultural History of Late-Imperial China (Dr Ganany)

Supplementary Regulation

This paper explores major themes in late-imperial China.

Course Description

This paper explores major themes in late-imperial China, including religious practice, print culture, literature and the arts. The main goal of this course is to examine a variety of sources (textual and visual) and research methodologies in the study of late-imperial China. The temporal scope of this paper is the second millennium AD, broadly from the Song Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty (960-1911).

Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas and Lent

Total of 16 two-hour participatory lectures.

Form and Conduct

This paper is assessed by a research essay of between 6,000 and 7,500 words, including footnotes and excluding bibliography. The students will develop the topic of the essay in consultation with the instructor. A one-page topic and paper outline will be due during the first class session of Lent Term. Two hard copies and one electronic copy (pdf) of the research essay shall be submitted to the Programmes Administrator in the Faculty Office no later than the fourth Friday of Full Easter Term.

C.17 Modern Chinese literature (Dr Inwood)

Supplementary Regulation

The course aims to introduce undergraduates to the field of modern Chinese literature as it evolved through the 20th century and up to the present. Literature, whether popular or elite, has had a vital place in modern experience. In the first term students become familiar with some of the major canonical writers and issues. Teaching in the second term is organized around a particular topic: possible examples are post-Mao and contemporary fiction; fiction and film in Republican popular culture; Chinese modernism.

Course Description

This paper explores modern and contemporary Chinese literature from the late Qing through to the present day.

This course introduces students to modern Chinese literature of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries by focusing on key authors, literary movements, genres, texts and trends. Chinese-language (also sometimes known as Sinophone) literature is studied within its relevant socio-cultural and political contexts from the late Qing dynasty through to post-Mao commercialisation and the growth of the Internet. Literary analysis of the original Chinese texts and their English translations constitutes a key part of in-class discussions and students are expected to come up with their own interpretations of the texts under consideration, informed by the secondary literature and the concepts and arguments contained therein. The Michaelmas term provides an overview of canonical texts and movements of the Republican era of modern Chinese literature, while the Lent term focuses on major themes and developments in Maoist and post-Mao literature and culture.

Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas and Lent.

Total of 16 seminars, plus two supervisions per term.

Form and Conduct

This paper will consist of two passages in Chinese for translation and comment, and six essay questions, of which two must be attempted.

C.18 China in a Global WWII [Not offered 2020-21]

C.19 Chinese linguistics [Not offered 2020-21]

C.20 Contemporary Chinese society (Dr Chau, Dr Weatherley)

Supplementary Regulation

An introduction to key socio-political and cultural developments in reform-era China (from the early 1980s to the present), while situating them in the historical contexts of the late Imperial and Maoist periods. Topics covered will include Chinese political culture, kinship and marriage, reproduction and family planning, gender and sexuality, urban and rural lives, ethnic minorities, religion, state and society, nationalism, migration, law and society, etc. The analytical approaches are drawn from anthropology, political science, sociology and cultural studies.

Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas and Lent

Total of 16 seminars

Form and Conduct

This paper is divided into four parts, all of which must be attempted. Part 1 and Part 2 (each carrying 15 marks) will each consist of a Chinese-language passage. Candidates will be asked to summarise the passage briefly and answer a commentary question, both in English. Part 3 and Part 4 (each carrying 35 marks) will each consist of five essay questions, of which one question must be answered.

C.21 China in the International Order (paper POL.21 of the Human, Social, and Political Sciences Tripos)

Candidates should refer to the Human, Social, and Political Sciences Tripos for information on the form and conduct of this examination.