

Chinese Studies course descriptions 2022-23

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:	C.13 Literary Chinese 3 C.15 The Chinese tradition: Chinese Art and Visual Culture C.17 Modern Chinese Literature C.18 China in a Global WWII C.19 Chinese Linguistics C.20 Contemporary Chinese society
Students write a dissertation	

Descriptions

C.11 Modern Chinese translation and writing 3 (Chinese language teachers)

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.

C.12 Modern Chinese texts 3 (Dr Inwood, Dr Zhao)

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 (Chinese language teachers)

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 (Prof Galambos)

Supplementary Regulation

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.

Course Description

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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 (Zhanguo ce)*, *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 2022-23]

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

Borrowed by History of Art as their Paper 17 (the History of Art paper number can change from year to year)

Supplementary Regulation

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

Course Description

This paper examines Chinese art and material culture from the Bronze Age to the present with a focus on dynastic and modern times. It provides an object and theme based learning experience, including lectures on important areas such as archaic bronzes, early tomb art, Buddhist sculptures, ceramics, painting, calligraphy and the propaganda art of the Cultural Revolution. The paper 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, along with a handling session at the Fitzwilliam Museum, there is also a day trip planned to visit the British Museum 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 [Not offered 2022-23]

C.17 Modern Chinese literature (Prof Inwood)

Supplementary Regulation

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

Course Description

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 (Dr Fan)

Supplementary Regulation

The Second World War was an axial moment in East Asia. This course places China in the wider context of a global Second World War.

Course Description

The Second World War was an axial moment in East Asia. It reshaped the geopolitical contours of the region and it continues to have a deep impact on the historical identities of its citizens, the constitutions of its governments, and the high and low cultures of its societies. The focus is on China in this course; it places China in the wider context of a global Second World War, paying attention to the fighting itself and the changes that took place in its nature to explain the rise of the Chinese Communists. But students will also pay attention to literature, the press, and film and consider the aftermath of the war, including the difficulties of social and economic rehabilitation and the way these traumatic years are commemorated today in public events and museums.

Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas and Lent.

Total of 16 lectures and 4 supervisions

Form and Conduct

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

C.19 Chinese linguistics (Dr Zhao)

Supplementary Regulation

This paper introduces the Chinese language through comparative and historical linguistic perspectives.

Course Description

The paper aims to provide a linguistic introduction to the Chinese language through synchronic and diachronic comparisons. In addition to basic information such as genealogical classification, typological characteristics and areal links, the Chinese language will also be introduced through comparisons with other languages such as English and Japanese in terms of grammatical features. Mandarin Chinese will be compared with other varieties of the Chinese language (e.g., Cantonese). We discuss the historical development of words and sentence structures (e.g., word order, *ba*-construction, *bei*-construction) from Early Archaic Chinese to Modern Chinese and analyse the underlying reasons for the development. Prosodic and sociolinguistic factors will be brought into the explanations where appropriate. In addition, the paper will attempt to develop an understanding of the acquisition of Chinese grammar (e.g., wh-words in questions and beyond; sentence-final particles such as *le*, *ne*, *ma*, *ba*) by second language learners, highlighting factors influencing the acquisition, developmental patterns, and ultimate attainment.

Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas and Lent

Total of 16 participatory lectures, plus two supervisions per term.

Form and Conduct

This paper will consist of two passages in Chinese for translation into English, and six essay questions, of which two must be attempted. Candidates will be allowed to use copies of Chinese-Chinese dictionaries provided.

C.20 Contemporary Chinese society (Professor Chau)

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) [Not offered 2022-23]