

Course Title	: CRITICAL THEMES IN PRE-MODERN CHINESE HISTORY 中國古代史專題
Course Code	: HST4361
Recommended Study Year	: 2/3
No. of Credits/Semester	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional approach
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exclusion(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

This course is a survey of the history of China from the earliest times to late imperial period, with particular emphasis on special topics chosen from political, social, cultural, and intellectual aspects of China's historical development. The key aim of the course is to revisit critical historical themes from different perspectives and to offer insight into factors that influence historians' perceptions of the past.

Aims

This course aims to introduce students to a broad range of approaches to the study of Chinese history: the purpose of exploring the past; the assessment of source materials; the function of critical thinking in historical analysis; the historian's perception and interpretation; and the use and abuse of history.

Learning Outcomes

After finishing the course, students are able:

- a) to enhance understanding of critical historical themes in pre-modern China;
- b) to develop analytical thinking by exploring the past via reading assignment and class discussion;
- c) to collect and assess Classical Chinese source materials to be used in historical research;
- d) to carry out historical research under guidance.

Indicative Content

- I. General History
 - A. Traditional Chinese Historiography
 - B. The Dynastic Cycle
 - C. Unification and Division
- II. Government and Institution
 - A. Organizational Structure
 - B. The Civil Service
 - C. The Military
- III. Society and the Economy

- A. Population
- B. Taxation
- C. Economic Development
- IV. Intellectual World
 - A. Schools of Thought
 - B. Intellectuals and Scholarship
 - C. Art and Literature
 - D. Religion
- V. Foreign Relations
 - A. The Chinese World Order
 - B. China's Response to the West
- VI. Historical Figures
 - A. Emperors
 - B. Government Officials
 - C. Intellectuals

Teaching Method

This course is taught partly as lectures, partly as a seminar with assigned readings and discussions.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- a) Class Discussion: to assess students' analytical skills and their understanding of assigned readings.
- b) Book Review: to evaluate students' ability in reviewing literatures focused on major themes in ancient China.
- c) Term Paper: to assess students' writing skill and the ability to use primary and secondary source materials.
- d) Examination: to assess students' knowledge of pre-modern China history based on the materials used in the whole course.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment: 100%

Required Readings

Selected Readings from the following:

- 林劍鳴：《秦漢史》（上海：上海人民出版社，2003年）。
- 陳振：《宋史》（上海：上海人民出版社，2003年）。
- 陳寅恪：《唐代政治史述論稿》（香港：中華書局，1974年）。
- 黃仁宇：《中國大歷史》（臺北：聯經出版事業公司，1993年）。
- 楊寬：《西周史》（臺北：臺灣商務印書館，1999年）。
- 蕭啟慶：《蒙元史新研》（臺北：允晨文化出版公司，1994年）。

Supplementary Readings

Chan, Hok-lam, *China and the Mongols: History and Legend under the Yuan and Ming*, Aldershot; Brookfield, Vt.: Ashgate, 1999.

Chang, Chung-li, *The Chinese Gentry*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1955.

Elvin, Mark, *The Pattern of the Chinese Past*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1973.

- Fairbank, John K., and Goldman, Merle, *China: A New History*, Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998
- Lee, Thomas H. C., *Government Education and Examinations in Sung China*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1985.
- Rossabi, Morris, *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times*, Berkeley and Los Angeles, Calif.: University of California Press, 1988.
- Spence, Jonathan D., *The Death of Woman Wang*, New York: The Viking Press, 1978.
- Tao, Jing-shen, *Two Sons of Heaven: Studies in Sung-Liao Relations*, Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1988.
- 《二十四史》(北京:中華書局,1959-1974年)。
- 中國社會科學院歷史研究所:《中國史研究》,1979-2005。
- 王夫之:《宋論》(北京:中華書局,1994年)。
- _____,《讀通鑑論》(北京:中華書局,1994年)。
- 司馬光:《資治通鑑》(北京:中華書局,1956年)。
- 余英時:《史學與傳統》(臺北:時報文化出版公司,1982年)。
- 李長之:《司馬遷之人格與風格》(北京:三聯書店,1984年)。
- 許倬雲:《歷史分光鏡》(上海:上海文藝出版社,1998年)。
- 黃仁宇:《十六世紀明代中國之財政與稅收》(臺北:聯經出版事業公司,2000年)。
- _____,《赫遜河畔談中國》(臺北:時報文化出版公司,1989年)。
- _____,《萬曆十五年》(臺北:食貨出版社,1994年)。
- 黃淑娉等:《中國歷代史話》(北京:中華書局,1992年)。
- 趙翼:《廿二史劄記》(北京:中華書局,1966年)。
- 蕭啟慶:《蒙元史新研》(臺北:允晨文化出版公司,1994年)。
- 錢穆:《國史大綱》(臺北:聯經出版事業公司,1994年)。
- 饒宗頤:《中國史學上之正統論》(香港:龍門書店,1977年)。
- 顧炎武:《原抄本日知錄》(臺北:文史哲出版社,1979年)。
- 顧頡剛:《古史辨》(上海:上海古籍出版社,1982年)。

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.