

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	CHC307P
Subject Title	Chinese Folk Beliefs 中國民間信仰
Credit Value	3
Level	3
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil
Objectives	The subject discusses the diversity and complexity of Chinese folk religions and beliefs, including Buddhism, Daoism, popular cults and their impact on both traditional and modern Chinese society and politics. The subject also examines the inaccurate images of Chinese folk religions and beliefs propagated by popular fiction and films.
Intended Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: a) develop a sophisticated understanding of the elements of Chinese folk religions in Hong Kong, China and overseas Chinese communities. b) understand why and how Chinese folk religions and beliefs co-exist with the three major religions in traditional and modern China. c) become acquainted with disciplinary and interdisciplinary methodologies for the study of folk beliefs, including history, religious studies, anthropology and sociology. d) explain the significance of particular sites, such as temples and shrines, for Chinese folk religions.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	1) Definition of Chinese Folk Religions and Beliefs. 2) Relationship between Chinese Buddhism, Daoism and Chinese Folk Religions and Beliefs. 3) The Role of Chinese Folk Religions and Beliefs in Chinese Society. 4) Peasant Rebellions and Chinese Folk Religions and Beliefs. 5) The Sea God and the Sea Goddess: Dragon Kings 龍王 and the Heavenly Empress 天后. 6) The Eight Immortals Belief 八仙信仰. 7) The Worship of God of War 關帝信仰.

	<p>8) The Worship of Wen Chang, the God of Study scholarships 文昌信仰.</p> <p>9) The City God 城隍 and the Dragon Mother, the Goddess of River 龍母.</p> <p>10) Local Chinese Folk Religions and Beliefs.</p>																																		
<p>Teaching/Learning Methodology</p>	<p>The instructor will use daily life examples to illustrate how Chinese people from the past to the present perceive their popular religions and beliefs. Teaching aids such as documentary DVDs will be used in the lectures. The instructor will also organize guided field study to local temples to provide students with first-hand materials to enrich their understanding of Hong Kong popular religions and beliefs.</p> <p>Apart from attending lectures, students are required to make oral presentations in groups on assigned topics in tutorials. They will submit written reports on their presentations at the end of the semester. Consultations are provided to help them prepare their presentations.</p>																																		
<p>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="469 927 1417 1464"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="4">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. In-class assessment</td> <td>20%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Group Project</td> <td>40%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Final Report</td> <td>40%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100%</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <p>The group project and final report are designed to measure the students' attainments of intended learning outcomes, which require good understanding of the elements and rituals of Chinese folk religions and beliefs, and the interdisciplinary skills among various disciplines.</p>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)				a	b	c	d	1. In-class assessment	20%	✓	✓	✓	✓	2. Group Project	40%	✓	✓	✓	✓	3. Final Report	40%	✓	✓	✓	✓	Total	100%				
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3. Final Report	40%	✓	✓	✓	✓																														
Total	100%																																		

Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	
	▪ Lectures	24 Hrs.
	▪ Tutorials	12 Hrs.
	▪ Guided field study	5 Hrs
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Readings	45 Hrs.
	▪ Writings	30 Hrs.
	▪ Discussion	6 Hrs
	Total student study effort	122 Hrs.
Reading List and Reference	<p>1) Kristofer Schipper, <i>The Taoist Body</i>. California: University of California Press. 1993.</p> <p>2) Christina Miu Bing Cheng, <i>The Rebellious Cult of Nezha</i>. (香港) 大山文化出版社, Singapore: Asiapac Books Pte Ltd. 2009.</p> <p>3) 蕭登福著:《道教與民俗》, (台北) 文律出版社, 2002年12月</p> <p>4) 鄭志明:《民間信仰與儀式》, (台北) 文律出版社, 2010年7月</p> <p>5) 韓秉方著:《道教與民俗》, (台北) 文律出版社, 1997年5月</p> <p>6) 丁仁傑著:《重訪保安村》, (台北) 聯經出版, 2013年6月</p> <p>7) 馬書田:《道教諸神》, (台北) 風格司藝術創作坊, 2006年7月</p> <p>8) 范熒著:《上海民間信仰研究》, (上海) 上海人民出版社, 2006年1月</p> <p>9) 顧書娟:《明清廣東民間信仰研究》—以地方志為中心, (廣州) 南方日報出版社, 2015年5月</p>	