

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Subject Description Form

Please read the notes at the end of the table carefully before completing the form.

Subject Code	CHC2HM02
Subject Title	Chinese Geography and the Culture of Travel 中國的地理與旅遊文化
Credit Value	3
Level	2
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Exclusion subjects for CHC2HM02: CC2HM02, CC2HM02P, CC2H02, CC2H02P and CC229 and CHC2HM02P
Objectives	<p>This subject explores the interaction between geography and cultural history. Natural and man-made boundaries and routes by land and water have defined China's past and present. The subject will describe the resources and ecology that favoured building the first settlements and then cities in the loess plateau by the Yellow River and later shifted population eastward. It sketches the role mountains such as the Five Sacred Peaks held in religious and political life. By introducing hypotheses of how cities relate to the surrounding countryside, it will offer critical perspectives on geography. The subject charts changing conceptions of the Chinese world from "all under heaven" to a nation situated on the continent of Asia and seeks to show how notions of sovereignty changed the perceptions of travel from a harsh necessity for civil service, trade, or pilgrimage to a leisure pastime and route to self-knowledge. Through close reading of texts on geography and travel and literary and visual texts depicting cities, mountains and streams, in addition to guided writing in a topic of the students' choices, students can discover how cultural values, events, and relationships define China's geography.</p>
Intended Learning Outcomes (Note 1)	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) comprehend the geography of China and its interaction with culture for defining major regions and dialect groups, transportation routes and borders; (b) chart the changing concepts of Chinese sovereignty from "all under heaven" (<i>tianxia</i>) to a nation (<i>guojia</i>) located on the continent of Asia and how the state enabled, hindered, or protected travellers; (c) describe the factors causing cities and monuments to be first built in the loess plateau along the Yellow River and subsequently shifted eastward; (d) state the variety of purposes for travel, for civil service, trade, pilgrimage, exile, or leisure and document the factors supporting to travel; (e) read and comprehend texts on geography, exploration, famous sites, and travel with attention to cultural and historical context and bring them to the service of personal enrichment;

<p>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</p> <p>(Note 2)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. China’s Geography in Cultural Perspective: “All under Heaven” (<i>Tianxia</i>) 2. Rivers and Seas: Water and Mythical Beasts as Factors in State Formation 3. The Formation of <i>Guojia</i>: The Nine States, Tribute Vessels, and Monuments to the Past 4. The Five Peaks, Sacred Mountains and Pilgrimage 5. The Imperial Cities and Countryside: Who Lives Beyond the Walls? 6. The Silk Road: Merchants, Monks and Trade with Central Asia 7. The Buddhist Influence on Travel, Temples and Disappearing Statues 8. Individual Meetings with Instructor on Final Paper Subject 9. Individual Meetings with Instructor on Final Paper Subject 10. A Tale of Two Cities: The Architecture Legacy of the Ming Dynasty Capitals 11. Visiting Famous Sites and Remembering the Past Landscape Poetry: 12. Consumer Culture and the Business of Printing Travel Guides 13. Final Quiz 																						
<p>Teaching/Learning Methodology</p> <p>(Note 3)</p>	<p>Lectures and tutorials are structured to foster teacher-student interaction as well as respectful, active dialogue among students. Lectures will cover the material, introducing the physical geography of China, key texts, and frameworks for understanding geography and travel (both historical concepts and analytic approaches). Students will be asked to formulate questions on the readings before class; they will have chances to question one another in lecture. Students will be asked to demonstrate their understanding of the items assigned for major readings in a brief oral report during an individual meeting with the instructor and in short abstracts of two books or articles. The tutorial aims to build skills in identifying key themes, concepts, and values and elaborating on the content of literary and visual materials.</p> <p>Students will use the final paper to <u>explicate</u> an idea or image that they find interesting, in order to show the conceptualization of geography in cultural history, focusing on changing social relationships and the emergence of travel culture. In addition, the students will have individual meetings with the instructor to discuss the paper outline. The final paper, broadly conceived to cover the content of the subject, will ideally build on the “Explication essay” and comments received on the two drafts, to bring together the key concepts learned in class and thus synthesize all four learning outcomes.</p>																						
<p>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</p> <p>(Note 4)</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="6">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> <th>e</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Participation, including questions for discussion and an oral report on major readings</td> <td>20%</td> <td>√</td> <td>√</td> <td>√</td> <td>√</td> <td>√</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)						a	b	c	d	e		1. Participation, including questions for discussion and an oral report on major readings	20%	√	√	√	√	√	
Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting			Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)																			
		a	b	c	d	e																	
1. Participation, including questions for discussion and an oral report on major readings	20%	√	√	√	√	√																	

	2. Individual meeting with the instructor to present paper topic	10%	√	√		√		
	3. Midterm Quiz	20%	√	√	√	√		
	4. Final paper	50%	√	√	√	√	√	
	Total	100 %						
	<p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation, including questions for discussion and an oral report on major readings : Class discussion and oral report allow students to engage with the scholarship on the historical geography of China. Through presentations and discussions, students will learn to analyze the interaction between the mobility of common people and the geographical/cultural transformations of “China” in a historicized way. These assessment methods hence contribute to ILO (a) to (e). 2. Individual meeting with the instructor to present paper topic: Individual meeting with the instructor helps to assess whether students have comprehended the contents articulated in ILO (a), (b), (d). It also helps students to prepare for the final paper. 3. Midterm Quiz: The midterm exam will cover the contents articulated in ILO (a) to (d), so it contributes to ILO (a) to (d). 4. Final paper: The final paper assesses students’ ability to interpret the assigned readings and analyze the specific issues articulated in ILO (a) to (d). Overall, it contributes to ILO (a) to (e). 							
Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:							
	▪ Lectures		26 Hrs.					
	▪ Tutorials		13 Hrs.					
	Other student study effort:							
	▪ Reading		38 Hrs.					
	▪ Writing		35 Hrs.					
	▪ Group-based research (10-minute oral report)		8 Hrs					
	Total student study effort		120 Hrs.					
Reading List and References Note: This list of references is extensive but not all mandatory. The	<p><i>Essential Readings:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 葛劍雄著《長城》。 2. 錢穆 著《古史地理論叢》臺北：東大圖書有限公司，1982。頁 96-133, 134-139, 209-244。 3. 卜正民著《為權力祈禱：佛教與晚明中國士紳社會的形成》 							

average reading assignment is 20-page in English or 40-50 in Chinese per week.

張華譯（南京：江蘇人民出版社，2008）。

4. 卜正民著《維梅爾的帽子：從一幅畫看十七世紀全球貿易》黃中憲譯（臺北：遠流出版事業股份有限公司，2009）。
5. 葉舒憲、蕭兵、鄭在書合著《山海經的文化尋蹤：想像地理學與東西文化碰撞》武漢市：湖南人民出版社，2004。第一、二章。
6. 瓊瑤著《剪不斷的鄉愁》香港：皇冠出版公司，1996。
7. 蘇曉康等著《河殤集外集》臺灣：風運時代出版公司，1990
8. Gatrell, Anthony C. *Distance and Space: A Geographical Perspective* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1983).
9. Williams, Raymond. *The country and the city* (London: Chatto and Windus, 1973).
10. Chao, Paul K. I. with Foreword by Joseph Needham. *The Changing Geography of China* (Hong Kong: The Commercial Press, 1990).
11. Mote, Frederick. "The Transformation of Nanking, 1350-1400," in G. William Skinner, ed., *The City in Late Imperial China* (Stanford, CA; Stanford University Press, 1977), pp. 101-154.
12. von Glahn, Richard. " 'All Under Heaven'": Borders of Land and Sea," in Edward L. Shaughnessy, ed., *China: The Land of the Heavenly Dragon* (London: Duncan Baird, 2000), pp. 12- 23.
13. Appadurai, Arjun. "How Histories Make Geographies: Circulation and Context in Global Perspective." *Transcultural Studies* No. 1 (2010): 4-13.
14. Strassberg, Richard. *A Chinese Bestiary: Strange Creatures from the Guideways through the Mountains and Seas* (Shanghai Jing) (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).
15. Strassberg, Richard. *Inscribed Landscapes: Travel Writing from Imperial China* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1994). Introduction (pp. 1-56), and pp. 63-66, 67-72.

Secondary Readings:

16. De Certeau, Michel. *The Practice of Everyday Life*, trans. Stephen Rendall (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2011).
17. Fa Hien, translated by James Legge. *A record of Buddhistic kingdoms; Being an account by the Chinese monk Fa, -Hien of his travels in India and Ceylon (A.D. 399-414) in search of the Buddhist books of discipline* (New York: Dover Books, 1965).
18. Liu, Lydia. *Clash of Empires: The Invention of China in Modern World Making* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994).
19. Wu Hong. *Monumentality in Early Chinese Art and Architecture* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1995).

	<p>20. Skinner, G. William, <i>Marketing and social structure in rural China</i> (Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies, 1964).</p> <p>21. Williams, Raymond. <i>The country and the city</i> (London: Chatto and Windus, 1973).</p> <p>22. John Einarsen. <i>The Sacred Mountains of Asia</i> (Shambhala, 1995).</p>
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Note 1: Intended Learning Outcomes

Intended learning outcomes should state what students should be able to do or attain upon completion of the subject. Subject outcomes are expected to contribute to the attainment of the overall programme outcomes.

Note 2: Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus

The syllabus should adequately address the intended learning outcomes. At the same time over-crowding of the syllabus should be avoided.

Note 3: Teaching/Learning Methodology

This section should include a brief description of the teaching and learning methods to be employed to facilitate learning, and a justification of how the methods are aligned with the intended learning outcomes of the subject.

Note 4: Assessment Method

This section should include the assessment method(s) to be used and its relative weighting, and indicate which of the subject intended learning outcomes that each method purports to assess. It should also provide a brief explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes.