

Description of Courses (as at 18 June 2009)

The following description is for reference only. Please visit www.history.cuhk.edu.hk for update information.

2009-2010 Term 1 (7 September 2009 – 5 December 2009)

Course Code: HIS 1103B

Course Title: History Tradition and Transformation in Chinese History

Teacher: Prof. SO Kee Long *PhD (ANU)*
Professor of History

Course Outline:

This course uses John King Fairbank's *China: A New History* (1998) as the basic textbook but introduces students to selected narratives of Chinese history and major issues derived from these scholarships. Rather than memorizing facts and figures of historical events, students are required to think critically and creatively the meanings of Chinese history in terms of tradition and transformation and how such understanding might be relevant to China and the world today.

There will not be examination testing students' ability in rote-learning. Originality is the key yardstick of good performance in this course. Active participation in lectures and tutorials is essential; in particular, one must be fully engaged in the process of writing a good review article assigned as term paper.

The reading and assignments are not heavy but demanding; students are expected to read, write, discuss and think seriously so as to realize their intellectual potential and enrich their perception of life. The focus of the course is not facts or description; rather it emphasizes conceptual and theoretical perspectives of Chinese history. It requires and enhances higher-order thinking.

The course is designed as an introductory course to Chinese history for undergraduate students with or without prior knowledge of Chinese history. Those who have studied the subject of Chinese history in the secondary schools will have some advantage in background knowledge but enjoy no particular advantage in achieving good performance in this course if they fail to produce good and original ideas. Students taking this course without any prior knowledge of Chinese history can acquire the necessary background within weeks through self-learning.

Course Code: HIS 1104
Course Title: Tradition and Transformation in Western History
Teacher: Prof. CHEUNG Hok Ming *PhD (UC Santa Barbara)*
Associate Professor I

Course Outline:

This course examines the main historical events in Western Civilization from Mesopotamia to the twentieth century. Major historical themes of the West and their significance are introduced in order to attain a macro-historical understanding of Western Civilization.

Course Code: HIS 1105B
Course Title: History and the Historian (Introductory)
Teacher: Dr. Ian MORLEY *PhD (Sheffield)*
Research Assistant Professor

Course Outline:

The programme provides an introduction to the study and writing of history and includes an analysis of the changes in the methods, assumptions and purposes of historical study over time. Students will through the course learn to appreciate how historiography when applied to the study of History can change the interpretation of and approaches to comprehending the causes, evolution and effects of a particular historical process or event, such as war or a society in transition, or to the understanding of a particular historical field. Different traditions of historical writing therefore also form a significant component of 'History and the Historian'.

In order for all students to better grasp the theory of historical writing selected reading by distinguished historians shall be utilised so as to introduce basic methodological matters within the field of History and to bring to the fore areas of theoretical interest to past and present-day historians. Within tutorials many of these issues associated with methodology, for example, shall be further explored so that students can begin to apply learning in these areas to writing an historical analysis of different interpretations of a key historical process or event. By the end of the course it is hoped that all students should be able to treat analytically any piece of historical interpretation that is presented to them. In addition, through the course students will become aware of their personal need to engage themselves in greater depth and sophistication of historical reading, writing and thinking within their courses.

The course is split into a number of clearly defined parts. The first section surveys the development of the discipline of History. The second part of the course focuses on introducing methodological issues connected to History in order to demonstrate how historical materials, interviews, etc., can come together in the writing of History. Importantly this element of the programme will allow students the opportunity to be aware of the association between historians, society, ideology, and the diffusion and control of ideas. The third part of the course touches upon matters related to reading and writing, such as research methods, critical thinking, analysis and the basics of history writing composition. This particular part of 'History and the Historians' will help you the student value the necessary skills needed to be a successful historian.

Course Code: HIS 3253
Course Title: History of Modern Britain
Teacher: Dr. Thomas BROPHY *PhD (Dublin)*
Instructor I

Course Outline:

The course surveys the development of Great Britain as a political, military and cultural whole and the circumstance of its disparate parts—England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. The lectures commence from the Acts of Union with Scotland (1707) and Ireland (1800) and conclude with the process of devolution within the United Kingdom. It will detail the major political, economic, philosophical, artistic, scientific, and social events of this period and will examine them as a series of interwoven threads rather than as separate events. Consider that during the span of our investigation this small island state and its collection of nationalities came to exert control and influence over a quarter of the world's land mass and for much of the time operated as unchallenged mistress of the seas. The course proceeds as an empirical examination of the progress of multiple facets of British history, but all along our inspection we will confront the question as to what it meant (means) to be British. Readings for the course will hear from many scholarly voices and will engage with a variety of primary sources that should be viewed as historical texts that open windows onto inquiries into the nature of class, gender, minority status, immigration, religion, technology, monarchy, and culture.

Course Code: HIS 3423
Course Title: Chinese History in the Field
Teacher: Prof. CHEUNG Sui Wai *DPhil (Oxon)*
Assistant Professor

Course Outline:

Students on this course are expected to learn Chinese History from what they see as well as from what they read. This course will introduce major political and social transformations in the long duration of Chinese history by way of, besides lectures, a number of day trips to different historical sites of Hong Kong, Macau and the mainland. All day trips will take place on Saturdays.

Course Code: HIS 3501B

Course Title: Topic Studies in Traditional Chinese History: Palace Women and Court Politics in Imperial China

Teacher: Prof. Priscilla CHUNG *PhD (Penn)*

Adjunct Associate Professor (Her book on *Palace Women in the Northern Sung* (1981) was a pioneer work on women in Chinese history. She currently serves as a Consulting Editor on Asian Affairs: An American Review.)

Course Outline:

In Imperial China, there was an implied assumption that women could not become emperors; therefore, the only route to power for women was through marriage to the emperor or through entry into palace service and finding favor with the emperor. While some women held positions as empresses and imperial consorts, others worked in the palaces as paid palace officials (with official civil service ranks) and serving women. Since male relatives of the emperor are of imperial blood and can usurp the throne, the emperor has to keep them under control and is forced to ally himself with relatives of Palace women. When the relatives of palace women become too powerful the emperor would be forced to ally with the eunuchs to get rid of the maternal relatives. This course looks at the role these women played in the politics of their times. It examines how women entered the palace, gained and maintained power. It looks at the many ways different dynasties ruled by Han and non-Han peoples were forced to block women's access to power and evaluates these methods to see if they were successful. Biographies of different women will be provided as illustrations.

Course Code: HIS 3508

Course Title: Topic Studies in Chinese History: Social and Cultural History of the Song Period

Teacher: Prof. Patricia EBREY

Visiting Professor

Course Outline:

The goal of this course is to gain a deeper understanding of Chinese society and culture during the Song period (960-1276) and the scholarship on it in English.

Course Code: HIS 3509E

Course Title: Topic Studies in World History: Modern Europe: from Revolution to Consensus

Teacher: Dr. Thomas BROPHY *PhD (Dublin)*

Instructor I

Course Outline:

To be announced soon! Please visit www.history.cuhk.edu.hk for details.

Course Code: HIS 3511B

Course Title: Topic Studies in Asian History: History of Singapore

Teacher: Mr. LEE Hiu Hong Michael
Instructor I

Course Outline:

This course introduces and examines the historical development of Singapore since the British built up a trade settlement in 1819, through the time of British colonialism, Japanese occupation, decolonization, self-government, merger with Malaysia, and finally nation-building after the independence in 1965 till nowadays. Apart from looking at the political aspect of modern Singapore history, this course is also aimed at examining the social, economic and cultural aspects of the historical development of modern Singapore over the past two centuries.

Course Code: HIS 5507A

Course Title: Special Topics in Public History: Patterns in Urban History and Development

Teacher: Dr. Ian MORLEY *PhD (Sheffield)*
Research Assistant Professor

Course Outline:

This module provides an introductory survey to the history of urban development from the ancient and early modern periods to the end of the twentieth century. It will focus on the forces that led to the development of cities through the prism of a multi-disciplinary perspective and utilization of a variety of methodologies so as to explore the political, cultural, artistic, legal and environmental developments of urban society at different times in history. Central to the programme is the use of comparative analyses which will help students identify the cultural/historic roots of urban growth, clarify the role of specific variables (e.g. economics, politics) in urban development and change, and help explain the causes of various urban processes and urban concepts (built and unbuilt). Importantly too a comparative perspective will allow students to test hypotheses under the guidance of their teacher about the causes and effects of urban changes in history.

Course Code: HIS 5563

Course Title: History of Modern Japan since Meiji

Teacher: Ms. Yoko MIYAKAWA
Part-time Lecturer

Course Outline:

This is a survey course on modern Japanese history, covering the period from the late 19th century to the present. The course will explore various issues in Japan's modern history: industrialization, development of mass media, imperialism and colonialism, nationalism, feminism, war, and democracy. The course will aim to achieve a general understanding of modern Japanese society in all its complexity through the study of its recent past.

Course Code: HIS 5564

Course Title: Cross-Strait Relations in International and Historical Perspectives

Teacher: Prof. Frank CHING *MPhil (New York)*

Adjunct Associate Professor (Senior Journalist and Writer)

Course Outline:

This course examines the history of the relationship between Taiwan and mainland China since the end of World War II, when Taiwan ceased to be a Japanese colony. The victory of the Communists in China's civil war in 1949 and the relocation of the Kuomintang Government to Taipei sparked off the dispute over Taiwan's status, which endures to the present day. Now President Chen Shui-bian wants to redefine Taiwan's status as a sovereign, independent country whose name is the Republic of China, while Beijing defines Taiwan as part of China. Historically, how did the international community respond to the Cross-Strait dispute? This course will examine the stand taken by key international actors, in particular the United States but also the position of Japan and the countries of Europe. It will look at the Taiwan Straits military crises of the 1950s and the roles of the United States and the Soviet Union, the initial strong international support for the KMT government as the sole legal government of all China until the tide turned in 1971, with Beijing replacing Taipei in the United Nations. It will also examine various international documents that have a bearing on the international status of Taiwan as well as statements issued by the government in Taiwan and by leading political parties there as well as white papers issued by the People's Republic of China.

2008 – 2009 Term 2 (11 January 2010 – 24 April 2010)

Course Code: HIS 1106B

Course Title: History and the Historian (*Advanced*)

Teacher: Dr. Thomas BROPHY *PhD (Dublin)*

Instructor I

Course Outline:

The course continues to develop and enhance your awareness of the range of approaches and varieties of theories in the study of historiography and to the issues in academic history writing. The lectures divide between the applications of historiography and trends within the field and then move onto schools of historical theory and tendencies within those schools. The constant within the whole of the course will be a concentration on developing writing and analytical expertise and then applying those skills on reviewing the arguments of professional historians as well as original compositions. Within the tutorials, questions raised by the lectures will be addressed, assignments will be presented, and exercises in historical analysis and interpretation conducted (Don't worry it won't be as dry as it sounds).

Course Code: HIS 3209

Course Title: Revolution and Modernization in Twentieth-Century China

Teacher: Prof. David PONG

Visiting Professor

Course Outline:

To be announced soon! Please visit www.history.cuhk.edu.hk for details.

Course Code: HIS 3257
Course Title: Explorations in Modern American History
Teacher: Dr. Thomas BROPHY *PhD (Dublin)*
Instructor I

Course Outline:

Our course will stand true to its name and explore modern American history rather than recount it. We will take a thematic rather than a progressive line of inquiry and essentially sacrifice the comforts of an orderly timeline for the challenges of a non-linear exploration. Chronology will not be eliminated as the lectures will roughly flow from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries and the events and the movements we investigate will be placed in their temporal contexts, but we will be most interested in the links between different periods with regards to specific subjects. The weekly lecture topics include economics; territorial expansion; popular movements that originated outside government structures and the influence they later wielded within them; the betrayal, confrontations, and confinement of Native Americans; slavery and institutionalized bigotry; religion and popular culture; urban development; the causes of and responses to economic impoverishment; international relations; and crises of authority. For example, we will consider what the country's "Founding Fathers" meant by their declaration of each individual's right to the "pursuit of happiness," and how that resulted in a clique of late nineteenth century "Robber Barons."

Course Code: HIS 3319
Course Title: Sino-US Relations since 1949
Teacher: Prof. Frank CHING *MPhil (New York)*
Adjunct Associate Professor (Senior Journalist and Writer)

Course Outline:

This course examines the long and curious relationship between the United States and China. The focus will be on the period after 1949, when the People's Republic of China was proclaimed. Washington continued to recognize the Republic of China on Taiwan until the 1970s, when the U.S. formed a virtual alliance with mainland China against the Soviet Union. The end of the Cold War eroded the basis of that relationship. And the Tiananmen Square military crackdown brought to the fore the human rights situation in China, leading to an annual debate in Congress as to whether China's most-favored-nation trade status should be renewed. More recently, incidents such as the American bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in 1999 and the EP-3 incident of April 2001 precipitated crises in the relationship. However, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States provided a new rationale for the strategic Washington-Beijing relationship. What lies in the future, as the U.S. faces a rising China? And what role has trade played in the relationship?

Course Code: HIS 3406
Course Title: Early English Constitutional History
Teacher: Prof. CHEUNG Hok Ming *PhD (UC Santa Barbara)*
Associate Professor I

Course Outline:

To be announced soon! Please visit www.history.cuhk.edu.hk for details.

Course Code: HIS 3501C
Course Title: Topic Studies in Traditional Chinese History: History of Chinese Women
Teacher: Prof. Priscilla CHUNG *PhD (Penn)*
Adjunct Associate Professor (Her book on *Palace Women in the Northern Sung* (1981) was a pioneer work on women in Chinese history. She currently serves as a Consulting Editor on *Asian Affairs: An American Review*.)

Course Outline:

An introduction to the History of Chinese women looking at how their role has been affected and molded by Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and Law.

The course will see look at how women lived within the Confucian framework of being assigned the role of a wife within the principles of “three obediences” and “four virtues”. Lecture notes will be based on studies on the writings about women, women’s writings, biographies and epitaphs. Alternative lifestyles such as those of nuns and courtesans will be explored.

Course Code: HIS 3503A
Course Title: Topic Studies in Pre-modern History: Ancient Egypt: History, Art, Religion, and Modern Perceptions
Teacher: Prof. POO Mu Chou
Professor of History

Course Outline:

To be announced soon! Please visit www.history.cuhk.edu.hk for details.

Course Code: HIS 3504A

Course Title: Topic Studies in Modern World History: The Industrial Revolution and its Impacts

Teacher: Dr. Ian MORLEY *PhD (Sheffield)*
Research Assistant Professor

Course Outline:

The module intends to provide a survey of the origins and transformations of industrial society over the last two centuries or so, a period of time within which European nation states reached new heights of power and acquired the dominant share of the world's wealth as a result of industrialization – a wealth challenged by the rise of, for example, South East Asian nations and their industrial development. This comparative studies programme shall allow students to obtain a critical understanding of the nature of industrial society through fostering a multidisciplinary approach to industrialization and many of the changes in society it helped to establish. The course will give students the opportunity to consider the ideas and the conditions in Europe and elsewhere that produced industrial change, capitalism and democracy – processes that the West considered then and still considers today as desirable for itself and other parts of the world. The curriculum gives particular focus to pre-industrial Europe and its economy, industrial Britain, urbanization and its effects upon social classes, public health, housing and ways of living, and is designed to build skills such as thinking critically, well-constructed writing and the clear presenting of oral arguments.

Course Code: HIS 5509A

Course Title: Special Topics in World History: Great Britain and the British Empire

Teacher: Dr. Thomas BROPHY *PhD (Dublin)*
Instructor I

Course Outline:

In one of Great Britain's unofficial national anthems, *Rule Britannia*, the lyrics proclaim, "The nations, not so blest as thee, / Must in their turn to tyrants fall, / While thou shalt flourish, shalt flourish great and free, / the dread and envy of them all." Whether it was its navy, its political philosophy, or its civil service, for a long period of time the sun never set on the British Empire. The course examines the progress and decline of the British Empire from the sixteenth century to the twentieth. The ebb and flow of this investigation covers a vast expanse of accounts of conquest, settlement, collaboration, resistance, enrichment, and rejection, the course draws its narratives from British colonial experiences in Asia, Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

Course Code: HIS 5518A
Course Title: Special Topics in Public History (Contemporary China):
The Hu Jintao-Wen Jiabao Administration (2002-2009)
Teacher: Prof. LAM Wo Lap Willy *PhD (Wuhan)*
Adjunct Professor

Course Outline:

This course takes an intensive look at the achievements and shortcomings of the “new order” under President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao. Focus will be put on ideas and policies introduced by the Hu-Wen administration regarding economic, social, and political reform. Initiatives such as “putting people first,” “the theory of scientific development,” and “constructing a harmonious society” will be assessed from a historical perspective. Comparisons will be made between the governing philosophy and statecraft of the Hu-Wen team on the one hand, and those of previous leaderships on the other. Discussion will be conducted over the Hu administration’s handling of new forces such as nationalism as well as the rise of the civil society and the entrepreneurial class. Relevant issues relating to foreign policy and “energy security” will also be studied.

Students are encouraged to take a pro-active approach in both class discussion and writing term papers. TV footage and documentaries about the highpoints of recent events will be shown to stimulate discussion and research.

Course Code: HIS 5545A
Course Title: Special Topics in Comparative History (Political Economy):
Family Firms: Hierarchy, Management and Network in Modern China
Teacher: Prof. CHOI Chi Cheung *DLitt (Tokyo)*
Professor

Course Outline:

To be announced soon! Please visit www.history.cuhk.edu.hk for details.

Course Code: HIS 5562
Course Title: Nationalism in Japan
Teacher: Ms. Yoko MIYAKAWA
Part-time Lecturer

Course Outline:

This course will explore Japan’s nationalism in the 20th century, with a particular emphasis on the postwar period since 1945. It will cover various manifestations of nationalist sentiment in Japan: ultra-nationalism in the 1930s and 1940s, the ethnic nationalism of left-wing intellectuals in the 1960s, cultural nationalism in the 1970s and 80s, and nationalism of revisionist historians in the 1990s. We will try to understand Japan’s nationalism in its political, socio-economic, cultural and international context, and will offer comparison with societies such as China as well.