

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Subject Description Form

Subject Code	FH2C05M
Subject Title	The Underground World of Early Imperial China 中國早期帝國的地下世界
Credit Value	3
Level	2
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil.
Objectives	This course introduces key features of the underground world of early imperial China based on underground architectures in Shaanxi Province, including religious sites, tombs and mausoleums. Students will be led to understand how archaeological excavations demonstrate the transformation of burial rites, religious beliefs in the afterlife, geomancy and everyday life, as well as cosmopolitanism and the cultural interaction between China and Eurasia countries throughout early and medieval China.
Intended Learning Outcomes (Note 1)	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: A. have basic knowledge of the historical development of burial rites and customs in China; B. develop aesthetic sensibility of the splendors of the underground world in ancient China; C. understand the philosophical and religious underpinning of afterlife in ancient China and how religious faiths are being reflected in the underground architectures; D. observe the cultural interaction between the medieval China and Eurasia countries; and E. develop fieldwork, library and web-based research skills relevant to history, religion and archaeology.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus (Note 2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chronology of Chinese history 2. Archaeological theories and concepts on burials 3. Customs and etiquettes of burial rites in pre-modern China 4. Archeological excavations of ancient burial sites in Shaanxi Province: an overview 5. A showcase of imperial power and pride: Tombs in Qin Dynasty: 6. Tombs in Han Dynasty: 7. Buddhist art and Buddhist underground architecture 8. The expression of cosmopolitanism in Sui and Tang Dynasty 9. Art in Tang tombs: fresco, sculptures and statues 10. Concluding remarks: death and afterlife in Chinese culture <p><i>(Study visits may include: the mausoleum of Emperor Qinshihuang, the terracotta warriors, Maoling Mausoleum and its surrounding tombs, Shaanxi History Museum, Xi'an Museum of the Steles, The Qianling Mausoleum, Mausoleum of Prince Zhanghuai, Mausoleum of Princess</i></p>

	<i>Yongtai.)</i>						
Teaching/Learning Methodology (Note 3)	The subject comprises lectures, tutorials and study tours to Xi'an. The two-hour lectures will be aided by presentation of pictorial and video materials. Field trips will be preceded by lectures on the relevant topics; students are required to read assigned readings before the class meets. In the one-hour tutorial session, students will discuss reading materials and present their research after each cultural tour to share their insights and demonstrate their comprehensive learning outcome.						
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes (Note 4)	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)				
			a	b	c	d	e
	1. Quiz	30%	√	√			
	2. Study tour group oral presentation and report	30%	√	√	√	√	√
	3. Final written report	40%	√	√	√	√	√
4. Total	100 %						
	<p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The quiz comprising multiple choice questions and simple answer questions, will help students gauge the key concepts in Chinese history, customs and etiquette in burial rites, theories in archaeology covered in the first week's lectures. Students will be asked to form study groups. Numbers of group members will be determined according to the enrollment. Each group will be assigned to give oral presentation after a cultural visit. The oral presentations, each lasted for twenty minutes and given in tutorials, can comprehensively assess the earlier stage of these students' understanding of the subject. The final written report, of 2500 English words or 3000 Chinese characters developed from individual contributions to the group presentations, can comprehensively assess the students' general grasp of the subject and their in-depth understanding of some particular aspects of it. 						
Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:						
	▪ Lectures						16 Hrs.
	▪ Tutorials						12 Hrs
	▪ Study tours						20 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:						
▪ Pre-class reading						42 Hrs.	

	▪ Report and essay writing	36 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	126 Hrs.
Reading List and References	<p>Supplementary readings: Bendann, E. <i>Death Customs: An Analytical Studies of Burial Rites</i>. London, New York: Routledge, 1996. Johan, Elverskog. <i>Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road</i>. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, c2010. Karentzky, Patricia Eichenbaum. <i>Arts of the Tang court</i>. Hong Kong ; New York : Oxford University Press, 1996. Lewis, Mark Edward. <i>China's Cosmopolitan Empire: The Tang Dynasty</i>. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009. (ER: p.86-135). Lin, James ed. <i>The Search for Immortality: Tomb Treasures of Han China</i>. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012. (ER: 356 pages in total). Wriggins, Sally Hovey. <i>The Silk Road Journey with Xuanzang</i>. Boulder and Oxford: Westview Press, 2004. Wright, Arthur F.. <i>Buddhism in Chinese History</i>. Stanford : Stanford University Press, 1959. Zheng Dekun. <i>Studies in Chinese Archaeology</i>. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Chinese University Press, 1982.</p>	

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.