

# The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

## Subject Description Form

<b>Subject Code</b>	CC2C18/CC2C18P
<b>Subject Title</b>	Readings in Classical Texts of the Strategists: Sunzi and Wuzi 兵家經典導讀：《孫子》、《吳子》
<b>Credit Value</b>	3
<b>Level</b>	2
<b>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	Exclusion subjects for CC2C18: CC2C18P and CC216 Exclusion subjects for CC2C18P: CC2C18 and CC216
<b>Objectives</b>	The subject aims at introducing students to the intellectual foundation of China through reading selected texts from Sunzi and Wuzi, the two great masters of the School of Strategy during the Spring and Autumn Period. The subject also aims at helping students to understand influential Chinese views on warfare and its relationship to the soldier and the state. In addition, it is desirable for the students to see the modern relevance of classical wisdom derived from the texts they study.
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) know the basic philosophical assumptions and views of the ancient military strategists</li> <li>(b) understand why the strategist classic <i>Sunzi</i> has been so captivating in Chinese history and so popular in non-Chinese cultures</li> <li>(c) apply the insights of <i>Sunzi</i> to their social engagements and career development</li> <li>(d) find relevance of past wisdom to present-day life</li> <li>(e) read classical Chinese better*</li> <li>(f) fulfill Chinese Reading &amp; Writing Requirements in Chinese session</li> </ul> <p>*It is irrelevant for those who take the English session, as students are only required to read the English translation of the Chinese classics.</p>
<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Historicity of Sunzi and Wuzi</li> <li>2. Versions and textual history of the <i>Sunzi</i> and <i>Wuzi</i></li> <li>3. The way of human affairs from the view of a strategist</li> <li>4. The meaning and the end of war</li> <li>5. The political dimension of warfare</li> <li>6. The psychological factors of warfare</li> <li>7. Principles to stay alive and to win</li> </ol>

	8. Relationship between the military strategists and Daoism 9. Application of the <i>Sunzi</i> in decisive wars and battles 10. Non-military applications of the <i>Sunzi</i> ( <i>The Art of War</i> )																																																																															
<b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b>	<p>Discussion and debate of classical ideas and precepts against contemporary moral issues and ethical expressions will be engaged throughout the course to motivate the students to formulate a response to issues concerning their life and living environment.</p> <p>Students will read annotated topical texts assigned before class. Teacher in lecture will make sure basic textual understanding is achieved and then expound his/her reading of the texts and compare notes with students. Selected students in each lecture will do short presentations of classical expressions of their choosing for wider classroom discussion.</p> <p>Periodic quizzes on the meaning or background of classical terms as well as their use in set contexts will be conducted to ensure students' understanding of the text and their ability to apply what is learned.</p> <p>For the tutorial class, students will read assigned an/or self-selected writings on contemporary issues and discuss them in terms of the ideas and propositions found in the classic texts they have learned in the lectures. Their discussions will be turned into short papers for further comments by teacher and classmates. These papers will then be developed into full term papers.</p>																																																																															
<b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<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> <th rowspan="2"></th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> <th>e</th> <th>f</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Term-end quiz</td> <td>30%</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Tutorial Presentation</td> <td>30%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Term paper</td> <td>40%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100 %</td> <td colspan="6"></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	f	1. Term-end quiz	30%	✓			✓	✓	✓		2. Tutorial Presentation	30%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			3. Term paper	40%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Total	100 %																												
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## References

2. (CR)李零，〈吳孫子發微〉(北京：中華書局，1997)
3. 〈孫子新探：中外學者論孫子〉(北京：解放軍出版社，1990)
4. 吳如嵩、吳顯林校釋，林戊蓀英譯，〈孫子兵法·孫臏兵法〉(北京：外文出版社，2001)
5. Ralph D. Sawyer, tr. (with historical introduction and commentaries), *The essential art of war (Sun-tzu ping-fa)* (New York: Basic Books, c2005).
6. Roger T. Ames, tr. (with an introduction and commentary), *Sun-tzu: the art of warfare: the first English translation incorporating the recent discovered Yin-ch'ueh-shan texts* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1993).
7. Lionel Giles, tr. (with a new foreword by John Minford), *Sun Tzu's The art of war B* (Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle pub., 2008).
8. Ralph D. Sawyer and Mei-chun Sawyer, trs. (with commentary), *The Seven military classics of ancient China (Wu Jing qi shu)* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1993)
9. Gerald A. Michaelson, *Sun Tzu for success: how to use the art of war to master challenges and accomplish the important goals in your life* (Avon, MA: Adams Media Corp., c2003)
10. Frederick W. Mote, *Intellectual Foundation of China* (New York: Knopf, 1971; New York: McGraw-Hill Pub Co., c1989, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)
11. Frederick W. Mote (1999), *Imperial China 900-1800*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.