

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	FH2C09
Subject Title	Abnormal Things and Spiritual Beings in Chinese Culture 中國文化中的怪和神
Credit Value	3
Level	2
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil
Objectives	The course provides modern insights into the representations of supernatural phenomena and mysterious experience in Chinese culture. Through the study of folklores, legends, literature, film, TV series, talk shows, students will be able to understand Chinese folk beliefs and religious practices. The course involves interdisciplinary study in areas of philosophy, religious studies, sociology, Chinese literature and media studies.
Intended Learning Outcomes (Note 1)	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. have basic knowledge of how mysterious experience is being explained in Chinese society; b. understand the changing concepts and values concerning mysterious experience in Chinese society; c. understand the interaction of mysterious expressions between everyday life and folk belief; d. relate folk beliefs to different religions; e. develop library and web-based research skills relevant to literary studies and; f. meet the English reading and writing requirements.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus (Note 2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. Theories on mysterious experience 3. Deities and spirits 4. Legendary animals in myths 5. Ghosts in classical literature 6. Ghosts in contemporary media 7. Taboos in language, behaviour and everyday life 8. Necromancy, sorcery and divination 9. Customs and rituals of exorcism 10. The foreign devils: influence of foreign religions 11. Weird diseases and medical treatments 12. Superpower and <i>qigong</i> 13. Conclusion

Teaching/ Learning Methodology (Note 3)	The course comprises two-hour lectures and one-hour tutorials. Pre-class readings will be supplemented by the use of textual and audio-visual materials in the lectures. Students are also required to read media items and readings for tutorial discussion. At the beginning of the semester students will be assigned topics of works to study with and to provide a written report for oral presentations in the tutorials, which will then be developed into a term paper with research elements.																																																																				
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes (Note 4)	<table border="1" data-bbox="459 584 1481 1330"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="459 584 871 797" rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th data-bbox="871 584 1027 797" rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="6" data-bbox="1027 584 1481 725">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="1027 725 1104 797">a</th> <th data-bbox="1104 725 1181 797">b</th> <th data-bbox="1181 725 1257 797">c</th> <th data-bbox="1257 725 1334 797">d</th> <th data-bbox="1334 725 1410 797">e</th> <th data-bbox="1410 725 1481 797">f</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 797 871 869">1. Mid-term quiz</td> <td data-bbox="871 797 1027 869">20%</td> <td data-bbox="1027 797 1104 869">√</td> <td data-bbox="1104 797 1181 869">√</td> <td data-bbox="1181 797 1257 869">√</td> <td data-bbox="1257 797 1334 869"></td> <td data-bbox="1334 797 1410 869"></td> <td data-bbox="1410 797 1481 869"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 869 871 940">2. Oral Tutorial Presentation</td> <td data-bbox="871 869 1027 940">20%</td> <td data-bbox="1027 869 1104 940">√</td> <td data-bbox="1104 869 1181 940">√</td> <td data-bbox="1181 869 1257 940">√</td> <td data-bbox="1257 869 1334 940">√</td> <td data-bbox="1334 869 1410 940">√</td> <td data-bbox="1410 869 1481 940">√</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 940 871 1012">3. Written Tutorial Report</td> <td data-bbox="871 940 1027 1012">10%</td> <td data-bbox="1027 940 1104 1012">√</td> <td data-bbox="1104 940 1181 1012">√</td> <td data-bbox="1181 940 1257 1012">√</td> <td data-bbox="1257 940 1334 1012">√</td> <td data-bbox="1334 940 1410 1012">√</td> <td data-bbox="1410 940 1481 1012">√</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1012 871 1120">4. Draft 1 and Draft 2 of the term paper</td> <td data-bbox="871 1012 1027 1120">10%</td> <td data-bbox="1027 1012 1104 1120">√</td> <td data-bbox="1104 1012 1181 1120">√</td> <td data-bbox="1181 1012 1257 1120">√</td> <td data-bbox="1257 1012 1334 1120">√</td> <td data-bbox="1334 1012 1410 1120">√</td> <td data-bbox="1410 1012 1481 1120">√</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1120 871 1261">5. Term Paper (minimum requirement: 2500 English words)</td> <td data-bbox="871 1120 1027 1261">40%</td> <td data-bbox="1027 1120 1104 1261">√</td> <td data-bbox="1104 1120 1181 1261">√</td> <td data-bbox="1181 1120 1257 1261">√</td> <td data-bbox="1257 1120 1334 1261">√</td> <td data-bbox="1334 1120 1410 1261">√</td> <td data-bbox="1410 1120 1481 1261">√</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1261 871 1330">Total</td> <td data-bbox="871 1261 1027 1330">100 %</td> <td colspan="6" data-bbox="1027 1261 1481 1330"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="459 1368 1481 1440">Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <ol data-bbox="459 1480 1481 1955" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="459 1480 1481 1621">1. The mid-term quiz, including multiple choice questions and simple answer questions, will help gauge students' mastering of philosophical concepts, religious practices and folk beliefs related to mysterious experience in traditional and modern China. <li data-bbox="459 1662 1481 1771">2. The written tutorial report and oral presentation can inform the teacher the progress students have made in their general grasp of the subject and their skill in writing and oral communication. <li data-bbox="459 1812 1481 1955">3. The term paper can help assess the students' overall in-depth understanding of the subject. The first and second drafts of the term paper will be graded by ELC. Students will fulfil the English writing requirement via submissions of both drafts. 							Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)						a	b	c	d	e	f	1. Mid-term quiz	20%	√	√	√				2. Oral Tutorial Presentation	20%	√	√	√	√	√	√	3. Written Tutorial Report	10%	√	√	√	√	√	√	4. Draft 1 and Draft 2 of the term paper	10%	√	√	√	√	√	√	5. Term Paper (minimum requirement: 2500 English words)	40%	√	√	√	√	√	√	Total	100 %						
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Student Study Effort Expected	▪ Lectures	26 Hrs.
	▪ Tutorials	12 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Pre-class reading	48 Hrs.
	▪ Report and essay writing	36 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	122 Hrs.
Reading List and References	<p>Required reading: Poo Mu-chou ed.. <i>Rethinking Ghosts in World Religions</i>. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2009. (page:23-223)</p> <p>Supplementary readings: Chamberlain, Jonathan. <i>Chinese Gods: An Introduction to Chinese Folk Religion</i>. Hong Kong and London: Blacksmith, 2009. Chow, Adam Yuet ed.. <i>Religion in Contemporary China: Revitalization and Innovation</i>. London and New York: Routledge, 2011. Davis, Edward L. <i>Society and the Supernatural in Song China</i>. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2001. Feng Menglong and Ling Mengchu. <i>Selected Chinese Stories of the Song and Ming Dynasties</i>, translated by Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2007. Gan Bao. <i>Anecdotes about Spirits and Immortals</i>, translated by Ding Wangdao. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2007. Hearn, Lafcadio. <i>Chinese Ghost Stories: Curious Tales of the Supernatural</i>. Singapore: Tuttle Publishing, 2011. Li Fang et al.. <i>Anthology of Tales from Records of the Taiping Era</i>, translated by Zhang Guangqian. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2007. Li Lan. <i>Popular Religion in Modern China: The New Role of Nuo</i>. London and New York: Routledge, 2015. Lewis, Mark Edward. <i>The Flood Myths of Early China</i>. New York: State University of New York Press, 2006. Nienhauser, William H., ed. <i>Tang Dynasty Tales: A Guided Reader</i>. Singapore: World Scientific, 2010. Overmyer, Daniel L. ed.. <i>Religion in China Today</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Pu Songling. <i>Strange Tales of Liao Zhai</i>, translated by Sydney L. Sondergard. Fremont: Jain Publishing Company, 2014. Shen Jiji et al.. <i>Selected Tang Dynasty Stories</i>, translated by Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2007. Yao Xinzhong. <i>Religious Experience in Contemporary China</i>. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2007. Zeitlin, Judith T. <i>The Phantom Heroine: Ghosts and Gender in Seventeenth-Century Chinese Literature</i>. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007.</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 overcrowding 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.