



Course Guide
China Studies Research Project
(Capstone Project)

SINO 3001 (Fall 2018)

Course conveners and contact details:

Dr. Ji LI

- Room 119, May Hall
- Telephone: 3917-5774
- E-mail: lji66@hku.hk
- Office hours: by appointment only

Dr. Mia M. BENNETT

- 8.09, Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus
- Telephone: 3917-7541
- E-mail: mbennett@hku.hk
- Office hours: by appointment only

Dr. Loretta E. KIM

- 5.05, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus
- Telephone: 3917-4251
- E-mail: lekim@hku.hk
- Office hours: Tuesdays 4:00-6:00pm (except 6 November)

Time of the course:

- Individual appointment times to be scheduled between September 3 and November 30, 2018

I. Introduction

Students in this course pursue independent research and produce a suitable output under the course instructor. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore in depth a topic of interest to them in relation to China's development and position in the world. It can either adopt a single disciplinary methodology OR a multidisciplinary problem-oriented perspective. Students undertaking the course will negotiate the topic in conjunction with the course instructor to determine its feasibility and ensure academic rigor.

II. Format

The course will be delivered in the format of individual weekly meetings between each student and the course instructor.

III. Attendance

In accordance with University and School guidelines, attendance is mandatory.

IV. Learning Objectives and Outcomes

The course aims to provide scope for students to develop independent research skills. Students will identify a novel research problem, choose an appropriate research method to solve that problem, and identify appropriate resources to research the problem.

Students are expected to demonstrate familiarity with both Chinese language and English language sources in their paper. They may also utilize sources in other languages that they have studied and can read proficiently.

Apart from the topics specific to each student's individual research project, the standard skills to be mastered are:

- Identifying a research problem
- Formulating a hypothesis
- Using sources effectively
- Correct presentation of findings
- Formatting citations and other technical aspects precisely and completely

V. Assessment

You will be assessed on the merit of your final project (70%) and demonstration of effort throughout the process (30%):

- **Process: (30%):** Each student will be required to attend each and every scheduled appointment. S/he must adhere to the designated time and must be prepared to discuss each phase of his or her project with the course instructor. Make-up appointments can only be scheduled in cases of urgent medical circumstances and personal tragedies. If a student fails to attend two or more appointments throughout the semester, s/he will receive a *failing mark* for this part of the evaluation.
- **Project (70%):** The final project should be in an appropriate form, which will be determined in consultation between each individual student and the course instructor. If you choose to write a traditional thesis, the word count should be ~5000-7000 words, though it can be shorter or longer depending on the topic and other factors. Please discuss with me early on if you would like to think about writing your paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, as we should then decide from the outset about length, formatting, and style.

Your final project is due for submission in December 2018, with the specific deadline to be decided between supervisor and student.

Late submissions will be penalized by deducting 5% per late day from the overall mark. Exceptions will only apply for urgent medical circumstances or personal tragedies that are generally excused by the university.

VI. General Course Schedule

Each student is responsible to set up his/her individual meeting schedule with the course instructor in the first week of the semester.

1st Month (Week 1 to Week 4)

Focus: Topic selection, bibliography, literature review

- Week 1: Organization meeting
- Week 2: Finalizing topic selection and table of contents
- Week 3: Drafting literature review
- Week 4: Drafting introduction part

2nd Month (Week 5 to Week 8)

Focus: Research methods and data analysis

- Week 5: Finalizing research methods and primary data
- Week 6: Drafting research methods
- Week 7: Drafting data analysis
- Week 8: Drafting data analysis

3rd Month (Week 9 to Week 12)

Focus: Thesis writing and revision

- Week 9: Drafting conclusion part
- Week 10: First complete draft ready
- Week 11: First complete draft revision
- Week 12: Final draft revision

December 2018: Final Project due (specific deadline to be decided between supervisor and student)

VII. Sample resources

Books on Researching China:

Berton, Peter and Eugene Wu (1967) *Contemporary China: a research guide*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

Favel, M. Taylor (2000) "Online and on China: research sources in the information age," *The China Quarterly*, vol. 163, pp. 821-42.

Guoli zhongyang tushuguan (1970) *A bibliography of books on China in Western languages in the collection of NCL*. Taipei: Chung-hua ts'ung shu pien shen wei yuan hui.

Wilkinson, E. (2013) *Chinese history: a new manual*. Cambridge, MA: East Asian Research Center, Harvard University.

Wolff, Ernst (1981) *Chinese studies: a bibliographic manual*. San Francisco: Chinese Materials Center.

Zurndorfer, Harriet T. (1995) *China bibliography: a research guide to reference works about China past and present*. Leiden: E.J. Brill.

Books on Writing Research Papers:

Anderson, Jonathan and Millicent Poole (1998) *Assignment and thesis writing*. Brisbane: John Wiley and Sons.

Burns, Tom (2008) *Essential study skills*. London: Sage.

Eco, Umberto (2015 [1977]) *How to write a thesis*. Cambridge, MA & London, UK: MIT Press.

Lipson, Charles (2004, 2008) *Doing honest work in college*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Menasche, Lionel (1997) *Writing a research paper*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
Slade, Carole and Robert Perrin (2007) *Form and style: research papers, reports and theses*. Boston MA: Houghton Mifflin.

Electronic Source Materials:

Renmin ribao. 1946-present.
Chinese Academic Journals online. CAJ 1917-present.
China Yearbook Full-text database. 1912 onwards.

Websites:

China WWW Virtual Library: <http://sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/>
Chinese history research Site: [http://orpheus.uscd.edu/chinese history/chinese_archives.htm](http://orpheus.uscd.edu/chinese%20history/chinese_archives.htm)
Danwei: Chinese media, advertising and urban life: <http://www.danwei.org/>
National Bureau of Statistics of China: <http://www.stats.gov.cn/>
Shanghai Municipal Archives online Shanghai studies:
http://www.archives.sh.cn/wszi_506/index1.html
Zhongyang zhengfu menhu wangzhan:
http://www.gov.cn/test/2005-08/11/content_27116.htm
Stefan Landsberger posters:
<http://www.iisg.nl/landsberger/>

VIII. Plagiarism Policy

As stated in the University of Hong Kong's *Full-Time Undergraduate Handbook for the 2007/2008 Session*,¹ plagiarism is defined in the University's Regulations Governing Conduct at Examinations as: **"...the unacknowledged use, as one's own, of work of another person, whether or not such work has been published."**

Plagiarism occurs when all forms of information taken from books, journals, databases, websites and other sources are not acknowledged to be someone else's information. When using information for your essay you need to state where it comes from. You need to acknowledge the sources of your information consistently and in a precise manner throughout your writing. Adequate referencing is also indispensable even when paraphrasing information from these sources. All material used for writing an essay needs to be clearly identified as such.

The author or origin of the information must be acknowledged in order to prevent a misappropriation of intellectual property. In order to do so, referencing systems exist which serve as a framework for correctly citing information used for essays, reports, and other academic writing.

There are two main referencing systems commonly used in the Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities. One is called "MLA" referencing; the other one is called "Harvard-style" or "author-date" referencing. Consult with the *MLA Handbook* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*, both of which you can find at the HKU Main Library. The main point to

¹ The University of Hong Kong's *Full-Time Undergraduate Handbook for the 2007/2008 Session* can be found at: <http://www3.hku.hk/student/handbook/fulltime>. Further information can be found in the booklet entitled "What is Plagiarism" that is enclosed in the Student Registration Folder. Every student receives the Student Registration Folder upon admission into the University of Hong Kong.

remember is to reference consistently throughout your essay, using one of the styles mentioned above. Please do not switch between styles; choose one and stick to it.

Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be followed up by disciplinary action as determined by the responsible authorities. All members of the University are required to familiarize themselves with, follow, respect, and abide by the University of Hong Kong's rules and guidelines regarding appropriate referencing and quotation techniques. Not knowing about the University's plagiarism policy is not an excuse!