



香港樹仁大學

HONG KONG SHUE YAN UNIVERSITY



# Chinese Culture in the 21st Century

21世紀中國文化

領域

Area A

## Objectives 領域目標

- Describe the evolvement of Chinese culture from past to present  
說明中國文化從古至今的演變
- Nurture a broad intellectual and integrated perspective in understanding Chinese culture  
培養對中國文化的廣博知識和綜合視角的理解
- Appreciate the relevance of Chinese cultures on different aspects of modern life  
學習欣賞中國文化與現代生活在不同方面的相關性

## Course List 科目選擇

- The courses are as below (courses offered in each semester will be adjusted depending on the availability):  
科目如下（每個學期提供的科目會因應需要而作出調整）：

Code	Course Title	Medium	Enrolment Constraints
GEA103	The Origins and Transformation of East Asian Food Culture (東亞飲食文化演進史)	English	
GEA104	Knowing Hong Kong through Historical Sites	Cantonese	
GEA105	The Making of Hong Kong Chinese Culture (港式華人文化)	Cantonese	Not for Sociology Major and students who have taken <a href="#">SOC208</a> Hong Kong Society (Core) and Culture or <a href="#">SOC415</a> Film, Television and Society
GEA106	Mystery Tales of Ancient China and Creative Industries (古代志怪故事與創意產業)	Cantonese	
GEA110	Confucian Business Ethics in Modern World	Cantonese	
GEA111	Introduction to Confucianism and Law (淺談儒家思想與法律)	Cantonese	
GEA112	Appreciation of Chinese Arts	English	
GEA113	Chinese Writing System and East Asian Civilization (漢字與東亞文明)	Mandarin	
GEA201	Chinese Medicine: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	English	
GEA202	Urban Modernity in Chinese Cities: Hong Kong, Taipei & Shanghai (近代中國的「摩登」城市及文化：香港、台北、上海)	English	

Code	Course Title	Medium	Enrolment Constraints
GEA203	The Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Architecture	English	
GEA204	Hong Kong Kung-fu Novels, Films and Chinese Culture	English	
GEA205	I Ching and Life Management (易經與社會人生管理)	Cantonese	Not for Year 3 and Year 4 Chinese Major
GEA207	Dunhuang Artifacts and Culture (敦煌文物與文化)	Cantonese	

**GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

**Area A: Chinese Culture in the 21st Century**

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSES**

**GEA 103 The Origins and Transformation of East Asian Food Culture (EAFC)**

**(3 Credits)**

To get to know a country, studying its food culture is a good starting point. Food culture reflects not only national lifestyles and preferences, but also traditional culture. Today, East Asian food culture (EAFC) plays an important role worldwide. For example, Chinese regional cuisines, Korean barbecue (gogigui) and kimchi and high-end Japanese cuisine are all very popular among international diners. Many East Asian restaurants and lovers of East Asian food can be found around the globe. The countries of East Asia are important food-culture exporters, with world-leading soft power. Their great range of food and diverse cultures play a part in their success. Here comes to the entry point of this course: what are the components of these unique cultures?

This course will probe the following dimensions of global history and cultural studies: 1) the historical influence of Confucian culture on EAFC; 2) modern forms of EA cultural exchange, such as immigration, and their effects; and 3) the worldwide dissemination of EAFC as soft power in today's globalized era, the factors leading to its success, and how EAFC has been reshaped into hybrid multicultural forms via localization.

**GEA 104 Knowing Hong Kong through Historical Sites**

**(3 Credits)**

Through appreciating cultural heritage in Hong Kong, the course aims to demonstrate how the influence from Chinese and British cultures have shaped the cultural-heritage development of Hong Kong. The course provides opportunities for students to explore several historical routes and heritage sites in Hong Kong, including the Central District, Kowloon Walled City, Houwang Temple and etc. These field trips allow students to have direct contact with the environment where they will develop knowledge, skills and interests relating to Hong Kong's economic, historical, cultural and social development.

**GEA 105 The Making of Hong Kong Chinese Culture**

**(3 Credits)**

The rise of Hong Kong Chinese culture involves an intricate interplay in relation to Cantonese praxis, colonial modernity and cosmopolitan identification. By focusing upon family life, political and economic culture, arts and literature, this general education course examines how Hong Kong Chinese create a unique version of Chinese culture through varying cultural innovations and creative practices, particularly what the distinctive ingenuity and flexibility are in question. The general objective is not to trace the presence of a constant Chinese culture from the estranged past, but to demonstrate the innovative transformation of Chinese culture in the Hong Kong context.

### **GEA 106 Mystery Tales of Ancient China and Creative Industries**

**(3 Credits)**

The term “Creative Industries” was produced at the end of the last century and gradually prevailed at the beginning of the 21st century. Related industries have been heavily invested in and have obtained huge benefits. Ancient ghost stories provide rich and valuable ideological resources, which can be widely used in television, film, stage, painting, animation, video games, novels, scripts, music, advertisements etc. This course emphasizes both theory and practice. In addition to allowing students to analyse global creative industry cases and development trends, appreciate representative works of ghosts, and appraise related film and television arts, it also requires students to design and create related industries. In other words, this course aims to start from ancient legends and stories, allowing students to explore the opportunities that traditional culture brings to the creative industry.

### **GEA 110 Confucian Business Ethics in Modern World**

**(3 Credits)**

The term "Confucian ethics" refers to the philosophical thinking in Confucian philosophy that focuses on the study of moral norms, moral language, and moral practice. Often people tend to think that Confucian ethics is backward and incompatible with modernity and should be discarded. In fact, Confucian ethics is consistent with people's reflections on moral practice. Although Confucian ethics originated in ancient times and some of its aspects may not be suitable from the viewpoint of modern society, its spirit is eternal, and prevails as ever. This course aims to introduce Confucian ethics and its subsequently evolved values that are still applicable and enlightening to the modern business society. Furthermore, it aims to reactivate such ethics and to enrich the contemporary consciousness and global connotation of the business culture to perform a guiding role for the current business society. In addition to introducing Confucian ethics and its historical development, this course will discuss the influence and application of Confucian ethics in modern business society, particularly in areas such as leadership, management, strategy, marketing, human resources, social responsibility, and environmental conservation, etc.

### **GEA 111 Introduction to Confucianism and Law**

**(3 Credits)**

This course takes legal ideas as a starting point to allow students to learn and think about Confucianism from ancient and modern Chinese perspectives as well as foreign perspectives. By comparing the similarities and differences between contemporary legal ideas and Confucian thought, this course helps students understand the mindset and social function behind Confucian and Western legal thoughts and legal principles. This course not only focuses on the analysis of the thoughts of ancient Confucian philosophers and Confucian ethical law, but also explores the role and influence of Confucian legal thoughts in modern society. In this course, students will study Confucian classics and Western legal works. Students will also gain an understanding of current research developments and different perspectives in the field of "Confucianism and Law".

### **GEA 112 Appreciation of Chinese Arts**

**(3 Credits)**

In this introductory course, Appreciation of Chinese Arts, we will embark on a journey to appreciate the Chinese Arts forms across time, starting from the ancient times to the 21st century. We are looking into the concepts of aesthetic values of art and its features by analysing a wide spectrum of examples in Chinese Arts to discuss meaningful topics. The course will be structured with a thematic emphasis in a chronological order, giving equal attention to technique, stylistic analysis, and interpretation in historical and cultural context that aimed at developing students' abilities to appreciate Chinese Arts.

### **GEA 113 Chinese Writing System and East Asian Civilization**

**(3 Credits)**

This course focuses on the history, present and future of Chinese characters and East Asian civilizations. It aims to reveal the central role and far-reaching influence of Chinese characters in the formation, development and exchange of East Asian civilizations through the teaching of the Chinese character system. Students will understand how the Chinese character has served as a bridge between the cultures, histories and traditions of East Asian countries, and how it has played an important role in promoting the exchange and integration of East Asian civilizations. The course crosses disciplinary boundaries and integrates knowledge from the fields of Chinese Character Studies, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics. It provides students with diverse perspectives and a comprehensive approach to analyze and understand Chinese culture, while enhancing their critical thinking and cross-cultural communication skills.

### **GEA 201 Chinese Medicine: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention**

**(3 Credits)**

This course introduces the philosophical concepts and efficacy of Chinese medicine. Essential philosophical concepts such as "harmony of man and nature", "Yin and Yang", "five elements", "Qi and Blood" will first be introduced, followed by evaluations of Chinese medicine, including food therapy, herb therapy, tea therapy, Tai-chi, massage, qigong and acupuncture. The course will also demonstrate how Chinese medicine can be used to promote health and prevent diseases. Students will be given opportunities to try Tai Chi and learn about Chinese herbs through on-site visits. They may also be invited to try medicinal recipes, acupuncture, and Chinese tea in order to establish a good understanding of Chinese Medicine.

### **GEA 202 Urban Modernity in Chinese Cities: Hong Kong, Taipei and Shanghai**

**(3 Credits)**

Subject to colonialism and imperialism, Chinese cities such as Hong Kong, Taipei and Shanghai were subject to the rule of the great powers during the 19th and 20th centuries. Exploring the cities from a historical and cultural perspective will certainly help us to understand their historical, social, cultural development and its colonial legacy retained to the present day.

This course takes a historical approach to the analysis of the three most representative colonial cities: Hong Kong, Taipei, and Shanghai. The modernisation and Westernisation of these cities since the 19th century will be explored and compared. Next, the course will probe into the following: 1) how the concept of modernisation shaped the development of modern China; 2) how traditional Chinese cultures and concepts interacted with the western culture; and 3) how authentic historical materials, such as architecture, museum exhibition information, films, photos etc., have crafted and continue to craft the colonial collective memory and cultural legacy, and their influence on the modern society.



**GEA 203 The Wisdom of Ancient Chinese Architecture****(3 Credits)**

An ancient Chinese building tells us various stories, including Chinese culture, tradition and custom, history, philosophy, feng-shui, art, architecture structure and style. There are a variety of ancient Chinese buildings which can be classified into five major categories: gorgeous imperial palace, intimate traditional Chinese residence, natural landscape Chinese garden, religious altar and temple, and ethnical style of regional dwelling. By introducing different types of buildings, students will be able to understand the geographical features and historical evolution of Chinese architecture, as well as the similarities and differences between social life and ethnic traditions and customs in different regions of China.

Students will experience the Chinese architectural culture through films, videos, and field trips. Upon completion, students will be able to apply the knowledge and concepts of Chinese architecture. They will also be able to appreciate the historical architectures for the preservation of Chinese heritage. Through field trips to Ping Shan heritage trail, Chi Lin Nunnery and Hong Kong Palace Museum in Hong Kong, students will be able to appreciate local cultural heritage and the vernacular architecture.

**GEA 204 Hong Kong Kung-fu Novels, Films and Chinese Culture****(3 Credits)**

This course examines key Kung-fu films and novels by situating them within the broader social and cultural history of martial arts and wuxia. The course takes a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approach to Kung-fu—considering, for example, the influence of Daoist philosophy on the development of martial arts, the impact of Hong Kong action films globally, and the development of the genres vis-à-vis socio-cultural shifts locally. We will also investigate the construction of Kung-fu star culture, by studying celebrities such as Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, and Donnie Yen. Students will learn to think critically about representations of race, ethnicity, nationhood, gender and sexuality, and to ask how Kung-fu films, novels, comics, and video games, both articulate and shape cultural identities. The selection will include films by Tsui Hark, Zhang Yimou, King Hu, and Ang Lee. Readings will draw from film, literary, and cultural studies.

**GEA 205 I Ching and Life Management****(3 Credits)**

The *I Ching* ( 易經 ) reflects the philosophical thinking and wisdom of the ancient China. This course is based on the philosophy of the *I Ching* and is supplemented by the interpretation of the evolution and mutual relationship of the hexagrams. Through the analysis of the principles of the unity and contradiction of yin and yang, static and movement, change and unchanged, it aims to enable students to use the wisdom of the *I Ching* to evaluate the different situations that they may encounter in society and life, as well as to establish positive, and appropriate life management strategies.

**GEA 207 Dunhuang Artifacts and Culture****(3 Credits)**

Since the discovery of Dunhuang artifacts in the early 20th century, they have had a significant impact on both local and international academic perspectives. Scholars from various countries jointly established the field of "Dunhuang Studies" as a branch of international Sinology, encompassing areas such as history, literature, religion, art, and archaeology. This course introduces a wide range of Dunhuang materials to outline the cultural system of medieval Dunhuang and help students appreciate its unique value. At the same time, the course incorporates the application of digital technology, enabling students to understand not only the historical development of Dunhuang Studies, but also its evolving trends in the 21st century.