

ANTH2710 Archaeology of China

Term 2

Lecture time: Tuesday 10:30 – 12:15 (9/1 – 16/4) UCC C1

Tutorial time: Tuesday 13:30 – 14:15 (9/1 – 16/4) UCC 208

Instructor: Chris Cheung (christina.cheung@cuhk.edu.hk)

TA: ??

Textbook: Shelach-Lavi (2015) The archaeology of early China: from prehistory to the Han Dynasty. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780521196895

<https://www-cambridge-org.easyaccess2.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/core/books/archaeology-of-early-china/64AC692B32A8FFEFF2F6A8A2E2C78868>

Course description: This course will introduce and discuss the history and development of Chinese archaeology, the subjects, research methods and theories of archaeology in mainland China, as well as significant archaeological discoveries from the Palaeolithic through to early historical periods. It will examine how archaeology is related to the construction of “Chinese” identity and nationalism, as well as other academic debates.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Know the natural and cultural contexts of archaeology in China
- Have a basic understanding of major issues of Chinese archaeology
- Understand ancient cultural development and human evolution in China, and the consequence and impact of these developments upon contemporary Chinese culture
- Know how archaeological work is related to the political and economic issues in contemporary China
- Cultivate the abilities of cross-cultural, inter-disciplinary and critical thinking

Course structure and learning activities:

One 1 hour 45 min lecture and one 45-min tutorial per week for one semester. Tutorial will take various forms, including class debate, practical session, and writing exercises.

Course assessment and polices:

The final grade for the course is based on:

1) Reaction papers x 4	5% x 4	20%
2) Practical exercise (digitalising artefact)	15%	15%
3) Mid-term exam	20%	20%
4) Group presentation	15%	15%
5) Research paper	30%	30%

Reaction paper (5% x 4)

Throughout the course, students will submit four reaction papers, each worth 5%. Students may choose any four of the weekly topics discussed in class. The reaction papers should be brief essays (~1 – 2 pages) in which the students are expected to outline, and reflect on, some of the ideas that they think are important, or useful about that week's readings.

Practical exercise (15%)

More direction will be provided in class.

Midterm exam (20%)

The exam will take place during week 8 tutorial (28/2) and will cover the topics discussed from week 1 to 7. It will be based heavily on the lecture material, and your notes from the in-class lectures will be your primary study materials. Reading the associated chapter(s) from the textbook is highly recommended.

Group presentation (15%)

Students will form into groups of 2 or 3 and present on an archaeological case study. More information will be provided in class.

Final research paper (30%)

More direction will be provided in class.

Submission and academic honesty

As required by the university, from Sept. 2008, students must submit a soft copy of their computer-generated text assignments to VeriGuide at a specified URL. The system will issue a receipt containing a declaration of honesty statement. Students should sign the receipt, print

a hard copy of their assignment, and submit the hard copy and the receipt to teachers for grading.

The university says that assignments without the receipt will not be graded.

Please check the website “Honesty in Academic Works” at:

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

for more information on plagiarism and on how to submit papers through VeriGuide.

Grade descriptors

Grade	Overall course
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.

Weekly schedule (this syllabus is subject to change)

Week	Date	Lecture Topics and readings
1	Jan 10	1. Introduction to Chinese archaeology: background and history <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook introduction and chapter 1
2	17	2. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook chapter 2
3	24	3. Neolithic – Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook chapter 3
4	31	4. Neolithic – Social organisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook chapter 4
5	Feb 7	5. Bronze Age – The emergence of complex society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook chapter 6
6	14	Lunar New Year

7	21	6. Bronze Age – State society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook chapter 8
8	28	7. Writing and epigraphy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 1 and 2 of Li (2021). Anyang: A Chronicle of the Discovery, Excavation, and Reconstruction of the Ancient Capital of the Shang Dynasty. Springer Singapore
9	Mar 6	Reading Break
10	13	8. Practical workshop: digitalising artefact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neamtu, C., & Comes, R. (2016). Methodology to create digital and virtual 3d artefacts in archaeology. Journal of ancient history and archaeology, 3(4).
11	20	9. “Central” vs. “Peripheries” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook chapter 9
12	27	10. Music and arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Von Falkenhausen 1993, Bells in a Bronze Age Culture. <i>In: Suspended Music: Chime-Bells in the Culture of Bronze Age China</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 23 – 66.
13	April 3	11. Food and culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underhill, A. (2002). Food, Craft Production, and Social Inequality: Cross-Cultural Perspectives. In <i>Craft Production and Social Change in Northern China</i> (pp. 47-65). New York: Plenum Publishers.
14	10	12. Politics and religion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keightley, D. (2004). The Making of the Ancestors: Late Shang Religion and Its Legacy. In J. Lagerwey (Ed.), <i>Chinese Religion and Society: The Transformation of a Field</i> (Vol. 1, pp. 3-63). Chinese University of Hong Kong Press.
15	17	13. Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lu, Tracey 2002 The transformation of academic culture in mainland Chinese archaeology. <i>Asian Anthropology</i> Vol. 1: 117-152.