



## Undergraduate module descriptors for Chinese Studies

### Year 1, Semester 1

#### **Beginners' Chinese IA (MODL114)**

Tutor: Dr Lei Peng

This module offers absolute beginners a comprehensive overview of basic Chinese language functions and related cultural knowledge that will develop your basic competence in reading, writing, listening and speaking Chinese as well as cultural sensitivity and awareness. You are expected to be active and engaged participants in the themed language classes. We expect students to participate actively in our themed language classes. We assign weekly coursework and guide you through independent study to enhance classroom teaching.

#### **From Village to City: The Origins of Chinese Civilisation (ALGY112)**

**(for students taking Chinese Studies at 50% only)**

Tutor: Professor Douglas Baird

This module introduces students to the development of early Chinese civilisations. We explore the transition from hunter-gatherers to the first sedentary village farming communities and the emergence of the earliest cities and states from these early village societies. We thus also investigate some formative features of Chinese societies that persisted for millennia. The module places developments in China in a broader comparative context and allows discussion of the emergence of social and political hierarchies, complex economies and the appearance and nature of the state. Students are also introduced to the conceptual tools and methodologies needed to investigate these issues in the archaeological record.

## Year 1, Semester 2

### **Post-Beginners' Chinese IB (MODL115)**

Tutor: Dr Lei Peng

This module builds on the basics of Chinese language and related cultural knowledge in order to provide you with post-basic competence in reading, writing, listening and speaking as well as cultural sensitivity and awareness. You are expected to be active and engaged participants in the themed language classes. By the end of Year 1, you will be able to write approximately 250 Chinese characters; read and translate short passages.

### **Projecting China: An Introduction to Chinese History and Cinema (MODL177)**

**(for students taking Chinese Studies at 50% only)**

Tutor: Dr Leon Rocha

This module has two principal aims. First, it develops students' knowledge and understanding of contemporary Chinese cinema (principally that produced in the People's Republic of China in the last 25 years), both in terms of its historical development and its recent proliferation around the world. Second, the module introduces a number of landmarks in the history of twentieth-century China (Warlord era, Sino-Japanese War, Cultural Revolution, post-Maoist reforms), through their representations in filmic texts. In tandem, the way in which the Chinese (mis)remembers its past is dissected. The title of the module, "Projecting China", therefore points not only to China's cinematic production but also how the ideas of "China" and "Chineseness" are projected.

## Year 2, Semester 1

### **Pre-Intermediate Chinese IIA (MODL208)**

Tutor: Dr Lingzhi Gu

You must take MODL114 and MODL115 before taking Year 2 modules in Chinese. This module aims to develop your receptive skills in reading and listening, as well as productive skills in writing and speaking, at pre-intermediate level; to help you to acquire some knowledge of Chinese culture and customs in the themed language classes.

**Chinese Philosophy (PHIL220)  
(for students taking Chinese Studies at 50% only)**

Tutor: Dr Christopher Bartley

This module introduces you to ideas formulated during the classical period of Chinese philosophy, covering the work of Kongzi (Confucius), Mozi, Mengzi (Mencius), Laozi, Zhuangzi, Xunzi and Hanfeizi. It helps you to understand the ways in which Chinese philosophers approached topics that are also discussed in the Western traditions. The module also enables you to understand what is distinctive about the Chinese approaches.

**Year 2, Semester 2**

**Pre-Intermediate Chinese IIB (MODL209)**

Tutor: Dr Lingzhi Gu

This module aims to further develop your receptive skills in reading and listening as well as productive skills in writing and speaking at pre-intermediate level; to help you to acquire a good knowledge of Chinese culture and customs in the themed language classes. By the end of Year 2, you will be able to write approximately 700 Chinese characters; to master approximately 200 patterns of key sentence structure; read and translate general texts at some length.

**Chairman Mao and Twentieth-Century China (HIST203)  
(for students taking Chinese Studies at 50% only)**

Tutor: Dr Leon Rocha

This module introduces students to one of the most important and controversial political figures in the twentieth century: the Communist revolutionary and founding father of the People's Republic of China, Mao Zedong (1893-1976). Using Mao as the point of anchorage, some of the key developments in twentieth-century China are introduced: the demise of the Qing Dynasty, the May Fourth New Culture Movement, the Sino-Japanese War and Civil War, the Sino-Soviet Split, the Great Leap Forward and Anti-Rightist Movement, the Cultural Revolution, and the Reform period that followed Mao's death and that produced the current "economic miracle". Mao Zedong was an extremely prolific theorist, and students would engage first-hand with a selection of his most important writings. There is also ample opportunity to examine some of Communist visual culture (e.g. Chinese films, propaganda art, music etc.), and of course to explore some of the cutting-edge historical scholarship produced by the enormous "Mao industry". Most importantly, the course sets out to situate Mao's career and

the Chinese Revolution in global contexts, and to dissect Chairman Mao's complex legacies in contemporary China.

### Year Abroad

The Year Abroad in Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU) in China is **optional (but strongly recommended)** for Chinese Studies 25%, and **mandatory** for Chinese Studies 50%.

During your time in XJTLU you will study:

- 2 modules of Chinese Language
- 2 modules from the China Studies catalogue. These can be on topics that have *not* been covered by your study at Liverpool. You can pick, for example: "China: The Digital Revolution", "Modern Chinese Literature", "Doing Business in China", "China: Enterprise and Enterprise Development", "China: Family and Society", "Introduction to Classical Chinese", among many others
- 4 modules in the Major non-language subject taught in English. If no modules on the Major non-language subject are available in English, students select further modules in China Studies instead.

### Final Year, Semester 1

#### **Post-Intermediate Chinese IIIA (MODL308)**

Tutor: Dr Lingzhi Gu

You must take MODL208 and MODL209 before taking Final Year modules in Chinese. This module aims to consolidate your understanding of the structure and functions of Chinese language and related cultural knowledge; to assist you to achieve an effective proficiency in Chinese that enables fluent communication. This module also offers HSK (the Chinese Proficiency Test) training based on HSK official guidelines utilizing frequently used vocabulary and grammar to prepare you for the test which you can sit before graduation.

#### **China Sees Itself in the Western Mirror: A Communist State in Reform and Transition (MODL306) (for students taking Chinese Studies at 50% only)**

Tutor: Dr Lingzhi Gu

This module introduces students to the diverse portraits of China vs. the West produced by the political elites in China's reform and opening up to the outside world since the 1980s. We explore selected speeches by Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997), the paramount

leader who opened China to the global market in the last few decades of the twentieth century. We also examine selected speeches by Xi Jinping (1953- ), the president of China (2012-) who initiated the idea of the "Chinese Dream". These published collections of speeches by Deng and Xi respectively offer a rare glimpse into the worldview of China's elites and how China sees itself as the nation-state and the role it is likely to play to counterbalance the Euro-American powers in the new century.

### **Advanced Translation (MODL311)**

Tutor: Dr Lyn Marven

(for students taking Chinese Studies at 50% only)

This module will introduce students to the theory and practice of translation at an advanced level. Students will develop an understanding of theoretical issues surrounding translation, applying this knowledge both to their own translations and to existing texts, gain insight into the professional practice of translation and enhance their advanced language skills in both their target language(s) and English across a range of different text styles.

Students taking two languages may, subject to the agreement of the relevant tutors, choose to follow seminars in both languages. Please contact the module convenor in advance to make arrangements if you would like to take up this option.

Currently this module is available in French, German and Spanish. Chinese will be available from 2019-20.

MODL311 is a pre-requisite for MODL312, though students are not required to follow the modules in the same language.

### **Final Year, Semester 2**

#### **Advanced Chinese IIIB (MODL309)**

Tutor: Dr Lingzhi Gu

You must take MODL308 as a pre-requisite to MODL309. This module builds on existing competence in Chinese in order to expand further your intuitive and cognitive knowledge of the language; to develop some essential interpreting and translation skills for professional purposes; to further your knowledge on Chinese culture and help you acquire international perspectives. This module also offers HSK (the Chinese Proficiency Test) training based on

HSK official guidelines to prepare you for the test which you can sit before graduation.

### **Extended Essay (HIST366)**

Tutors: Dr Leon Rocha, Dr Lingzhi Gu, Dr Peng Lei and others  
(for students taking Chinese Studies at 50% only)

This module gives students the opportunity to produce an extended essay (5,000 words).

For the extended essay, students can develop an original argument about a particular issue of their own choice (if taken as part of Chinese Studies 50% then this has to be related to China/Chinese Studies). The originality will usually come from the students' own analysis of sources, allowing them to test the conclusions of scholars in the field. Students can also treat the writings of other scholars as a source, by exploring the way that scholars have approached a topic. Alternatively, the extended essay may take the form of an in-depth critical evaluation of a particular controversy, or a particular scholar's work. It is expected that all extended essays incorporate some element of original research and argumentation. The supervisors will help students to work out what kind of extended essay is possible in the students' areas of interest.

The topic of the extended essay (if the module is taken as part of Chinese Studies 50%) should be related to one of the research specialisms of members of staff from the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures who contribute to the Chinese Studies programme. Supervision and guidance will be provided.

### **Translation Dissertation (MODL312)**

Tutor: Dr Jonathan Lewis  
(for students taking Chinese Studies at 50% only)

This module gives students the opportunity to produce an extended translation of a previously untranslated text, together with a commentary and annotations/notes justifying the overall translation strategy and addressing decisions of detail.

This is an independent project and students are expected to take the initiative in finding a suitable text to translate, as well as in planning, researching and writing the dissertation.

Supervision and guidance will be provided from a member of staff in the Department.