

General Studies Request Form

Permanent numbered courses must be submitted to the workflow in [Kuali CM](#) before a General Studies request is submitted here. The General Studies Council will not review requests ahead of the new course being reviewed by the Senate.

More detailed information about requesting General Studies designations is found [here](#).

Proposal Contact Information

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College/School	Department/School
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLA)	School of International Letters and Cultures (CLAN-LIT)

Submission Information

Select the type of submission:

New Request (This course or topic does not currently hold this designation)

Requested Effective Date

Spring 2023

ASU Request

Is this request for a permanent course or a topic?

Topic

Subject	Course Number	Units/Credit Hours
CHI/SLC	394	3

Topic Information

Topic Title

Modern Chinese Literature

Topic Description

An introduction to Chinese-language literature from the end of the 19th century to the present day, including writings from mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Chinese or Sinophone communities in Southeast Asia and elsewhere. Topics to be discussed include revolution, science and technology, the nature of modernity, the relationship between literature and the state, and changing definitions of what it means to be Chinese. Readings in English; knowledge of Chinese not required.

If this topic exists on any other courses and the sections will be combined in the schedule, please list those courses here.

Requested Designation

H - Historical Awareness

H: Historical Awareness

Rationale and Objectives

Recent trends in higher education have called for the creation and development of historical consciousness in undergraduates now and in the future. History studies the growth and development of human society from a number of perspectives such as—political, social, economic and/or cultural. From one perspective, historical awareness is a valuable aid in the analysis of present-day problems because historical forces and traditions have created modern life and lie just beneath its surface. From a second perspective, the historical past is an indispensable source of identity and of values, which facilitate social harmony and cooperative effort. Along with this observation, it should be noted that historical study can produce intercultural understanding by tracing cultural differences to their origins in the past. A third perspective on the need for historical awareness is that knowledge of history helps us to learn from the past to make better, more well-informed decisions in the present and the future.

The requirement of a course that is historical in method and content presumes that "history" designates a sequence of past events or a narrative whose intent or effect is to represent both the relationship between events and change over time. The requirement also presumes that these are human events and that history includes all that has been felt, thought, imagined, said, and done by human beings. The opportunities for nurturing historical consciousness are nearly unlimited. History is present in the languages, art, music, literatures, philosophy, religion, and the natural sciences, as well as in the social science traditionally called History.

The justifications for how the course fits each of the criteria need to be clear both in the application tables and the course materials. The Historical Awareness designation requires consistent analysis of the broader historical context of past events and persons, of cause and effect, and of change over time. Providing intermittent, anecdotal historical context of people and events usually will not suffice to meet the Historical Awareness criteria. A Historical Awareness course will instead embed systematic historical analysis in the core of the syllabus, including readings and assignments. For courses focusing on the history of a field of study, the applicant needs to show both how the field of study is affected by political, social, economic, and/or cultural conditions **and** how political, social, economic, and/or cultural conditions are affected by the field of study.

[Revised October 2015]

Note: The following are **not** acceptable submissions for the "H" designation:

1. Courses that are merely organized chronologically.
2. Courses which are exclusively the history of a field of study or of a field of artistic or professional endeavor.
3. Courses whose subject areas merely occurred in the past.

"H" Criteria 1

History is a major focus of the course.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

syllabus

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

By presenting the history of modern Chinese literature, the course will offer insight and analysis of modern Chinese history through its literature. A central component of the course is the relationship between history and literature.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

For instance, how do we understand the relationship between historical facts, contemporary narratives of history by professional historians, and literary representations of historical moments by Chinese authors (such as historical fiction)? Reading of nobel prize-winning author Mo Yan in the context both of how his writings depict history and at the same time were published in a certain historical context is one example from the syllabus of how this can play out in class.

"H" Criteria 2

The course examines and explains human development as a sequence of events influenced by a variety of factors.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

syllabus

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

Care will be taken to historicize the material properly, and to show the various factors at work in both creating and understanding literature in particular contexts.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

For instance, when reading the literature of the Cultural Revolution, which does not adhere to dominant standards of literary quality today, we will spend time discussing what ideological frameworks readers were in at the time, in order to have appreciated such literature.

"H" Criteria 3

There is a disciplined systematic examination of human institutions as they change over time.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

syllabus

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

Institutions such as "China," "literature," "publishing," and "censorship" are institutions that have changed greatly in the period under review, and the texts in question cannot be fully understood without decent understanding of the changes in these institutions.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

In teaching a course on "Chinese" literature, one question must be: what is "China"? The syllabus begins at the end of the Qing dynasty, and will progress through revolutions of 1911 and 1949, which changed the borders both of China and of understanding China. The course will also include readings from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia/Indonesia, Xinjiang, and Tibet, to examine what these texts have to say about changing notions of the institution of "China." This is but one example.

"H" Criteria 4

The course examines the relationship among events, ideas, and artifacts and the broad social, political and economic context.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

syllabus

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

Modern Chinese literature was both shaped by and shaped Chinese history.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

For instance, the Cultural Revolution began in part as a response to a play deemed critical of the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. Or, literature changed greatly in response to the reform era, giving rise to the prominence of poets, who were in turn important in drawing attention to the Tiananmen Square protests, and so on. The intricacies of these narratives will be elaborated on in class.

Attach a sample syllabus for this course or topic, including the list of any required readings.

[CHI 394 Modern Chinese Literature syllabus H.docx](#)

Attach the table of contents from any required textbook(s).

[GOLDBLATT & LAU The Columbia anthology of modern Chinese literature - Table of Contents.pdf](#)

Attach any other materials that would be relevant or helpful in the review of this request.

No Response