

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Concepts in Chinese Culture

Course Number and Section

CHINESE

2652F 550

Instructor Name(s): Guoyuan Liu

Instructor Email(s): gliu23@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the main themes that have shaped the study of China and Chinese culture across multiple intellectual traditions. Through concepts drawn from classical cosmology, philosophy, religion, literature, politics, gender, science, and media, we examine how “knowledge” about China has been constructed within distinct discursive frameworks. These include classical scholarship of earlier periods, grounded in philological, ethical, and philosophical analysis of canonical texts; 20th century guoxue, a modern reconfiguration of Chinese learning formulated in contrast to Western academic categories and national cultural debates; Western Sinology, marked by its 19th and early 20th century colonial perspectives that constructed “China” through philology, Orientalist assumptions, and emerging social science methods; and contemporary global China Studies, shaped by interdisciplinary area studies approaches. By analysing how key cultural concepts function within these different traditions, the course explores knowledge construction in Chinese Studies as a historically layered, culturally contingent, and globally evolving process, and examines how ideas about China have been produced, contested, and transformed across time, place, and disciplinary boundaries. Taught in English.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to 1. gain an understanding of “Chinese Studies” as a field of knowledge construction;
- 2. develop skills to think critically discourses in studies of Chinese culture;
- 3. develop skills of research and analysis for Chinese studies.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Please see the course website on OWL Brightspace.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Attendance		10%
Participation		10%
In-class Exercises		25%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Quizzes		15%
Essay	12/08/2026	40%

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.