UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Institutions of Chinese Culture

2324-1-E2001R039

Course title

Foundations of Chinese Culture

Topics and course structure

The course will be divided in two parts, the first on ancient and modern China (Conception and writing of history, intellectuals and power; Philosophy and religion; Ancient and Modern Novel; End of the Empire and the beginning of Modernity; Maoism and post-Maoism) and the second on Contemporary China and new media, with a special focus on the constant re-actualization of ancient and modern culture in contemporary China.

Objectives

To acquire a basic knowledge of the main development lines of thought, politics and literature in China, to be able to have a critical reading of how Contemporary China is narrated today.

Methodologies

- Frontal lesson,
- Interactive discussion of reading material uploaded weekly on the e-learning page,
- Vision and discussion of multimedia material

Online and offline teaching materials

Classes will be held in presence.

PPTs, videos and reading material will be posted on the e-learning page weekly.

Programme and references

First part

Required study material

Lavagnino A.C., Pozzi S., *Cultura cinese*. *Segno, scrittura e civiltà*, Roma, Carocci editore, 2013.

Materials uploaded weekly on the e-learning space.

Required reading

- Choose between: Jin Yong, *La leggenda del cacciatore di aquile, Libro primo*, Milano, Mondadori, 2021. (or: Jin Yong, *The Legend of the Condor Heroes: A Hero Born*, London, MacLeohse Press, 2018.) **OR** Wu Ch'êng-ên, *Lo scimmiotto* (trad. di A. Motti, dalla versione inglese di A. Waley), Torino, Einaudi, 1982 oppure Milano, Adelphi, 2009 (quinta edizione).
- Buck P. S., *Vento dell'est, vento dell'ovest. Saga di una famiglia cinese*, Milano, Mondadori, 2014. (Note: The introduction is considered a required study material)

Suggested readings

It is strongly recommended that students read closely one of the following texts to acquire a general knowledge of the general lines of development of Chinese history:

- Roberts J.A.G., *Storia della Cina*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2013 (terza edizione);
- Sabattini M., Santangelo P., *Storia della Cina*, Bari-Roma, Laterza, 2005.
- Vogelsang, Kai, *Cina. Una storia millenaria*, Torino, Einaudi, 2012 (or other edition)
- Samarani G., *La Cina contemporanea: Dalla fine dell'Impero ad oggi*, Torino, Einaudi (any edition)

Jin Ping Mei (Chin P'ing Mei), *Romanzo erotico cinese del sec*. XVI (trad. di P. Jahier, dalla versione inglese di A. Waley), 2 voll., Milano, Feltrinelli, 1980 oppure Torino, Einaudi, 1955.

Cao Xueqin (Ts'ao Hsüeh-Ch'in), *Il sogno della camera rossa* (trad. di E. Masi), Milano, BUR, 2008.

Second part

Required study material

- Wenbo Kuang, *Social Media in China*, London, Palgrave Mcmillan, 2019
- Materials uploaded on the e-learning space.

Required multimedia material

- Podcast: Taiwan: perché? (Chora Media)

- Podcast: Altri Orienti (Chora Media)

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO

Assessment methods

Final **oral** exam, held in presence or online according to the sanitary situation and the rectoral decree.

In case of online exam, the students who registered for the exam will receive a communication from segreterie online a few days before the exam with the link and the information to attend.

The student will be required to answer questions about all the topic addressed in the course, the textbooks and the compulsory readings. Their historical, cultural and literary knowledge will be evalueted, as well as their critical thought and expressive ability.

Office hours

Please contact the teacher for an online appointment via Google Meet platform.

Programme validity

Two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Gloria Cella (tutor)

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION