UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Istituzioni di Cultura Cinese

2425-1-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

Teaching methodology is mostly lectures, with a part of interactive discussion on reading material uploaded weekly on the e-learning page.
In case of special teaching needs, one or two recorded lectures will be made available on the e-learning platform in asynchronous mode.

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

The "Institutions of Chinese Culture" exam consists of two parts: Part A and Part B.
Part B updates the version previously published on the website – shown below as Module B1. The two versions of the exam – Part A + Part B or Part A + Part B1 – are equivalent. In the upcoming exam sessions, it will be possible to take Part A + Part B or Part A + Part B1.

Part A

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, **OR** Yu Hua, *Vivere!* (any edition), **OR** Yu Hua, *La città che non c'è*, Milano, Feltrinelli, 2024.

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.

Part B
Required study material
•Alessandra C. Lavagnino e Bettina Mottura, *Cina e modernità. Cultura e istituzioni dalle Guerre dell'oppio a oggi*, Roma, Carocci, 2016.

• Guido Samarani, *La Cina contemporanea. Dalla fine dell'impero ad oggi*, Torino, Einaudi, 2017, cap. I, VIII, IX, XI, XIII, XVIII

Required reading and multimedial material
• Hao Jingfang, *Pechino pieghevole*, Torino, Add Editore, 2020.
• Corvi e passeri (*Wuya yu maque* ?????, dir. Zheng Junli ???, 1949). https://chinesefilmclassics.org/crows-and-sparrows-1949/ **or** *Lanterne rosse* (Hong denglong gaogao gua ??????, dir. Zhang Yimou ???, 1991).
•* I Wish I Knew* (*Hai Shang Chuanqi* ????, dir. Jia Zhangke ???, 2010) **or** *My People, My Country* (*Wo he wo de zuguo* ??????, Chen Kaige ???, Zhang Yibai ???, Guan Hu ?? et al., 2019).

Suggested readings
Simone Pieranni, *La Cina nuova*, Bari, Laterza, 2021

Program for Those Who Wish to Take the Exam as a Two-Year Course with Part B (please contact the teacher)

Part B1

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)

Program for Those Who Wish to Take the Exam as a Two-Year Course with Part B1 (please contact the teacher)

Assessment methods

Final **oral** exam.

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

Alessandra Pezza(tutor)

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES