

COURSE DESCRIPTION 科目簡介

COURSES FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

DHG501 Introduction to Digital History in Global Asia (3 credits)

This course introduces students to digital history, providing them with foundational knowledge on its emergence, developments, benefits, and challenges, and its methods, theories, and practices. It will begin with an exploration of digital history's relationship to history, digital humanities, and Asian studies, and an overview of how historians of global Asian history have used and created digital history. Throughout the course, students will study and explore existing digital history projects and probe into the different kinds of digital expressions that historians have deployed. By the end of this course, students will be introduced to Digital History and the basics to create a digital history project.

DHG502 Digital Approaches in Historical Research (3 credits)

This course familiarises students with the approaches, theories, and tools of digital historical scholarship. It is aimed at developing their skills as thinkers, writers, and creators of Asian historical narratives with the use of digital approaches. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to several digital tools, such as QGIS (Mapping) and Gephi (Networks and Data Visualisation) and will utilise these platforms to enhance their digital skills in historical research and presentation. Drawing on specific case studies, students will be acquainted with how digital technology has revolutionised research on global Asia from the perspective of urban studies, heritage, mobilities, networks, race, class and gender, etc.

DHG503 Digital Data Management in Asian Studies (3 credits)

Digital Data Management refers to the organisation, cleaning, analysis, and interpretation of data to support historical research. This course will walk students through the process of digital data management for historians, librarians, archivists, and museums curators. It will draw on the experiences of Asian libraries, archives, and museums to give students an in-depth understanding of the essential components of data management (e.g., collection selection, organisation, documentation, storage, analysis, preservation, presentation, and dissemination) with a focus on Asian history, culture, and society. Students will be expected to work with Excel and Access to build a database and Gephi for data visualisation.

DHG504 Visualisation and Digital Mapping of Asian Cities (3 credits)

This course focuses on the 'spatial turn' in historical studies and introduces a range of geospatial technologies available to historians including spatial theory and thinking, geographical text analysis, and GIS. This unit will take place over two complementary halves, the first considering the driving motives and potential uses of geospatial research, and the second turning to how such research has been applied to Asian case studies. Students will not only have the opportunity to acquire transferable digital skills in visualising data in two and three dimensions, creating timelines, producing maps, and performing spatial statistical analyses, but also develop an all-rounded understanding of the limitations and practical implications of geospatial technologies.

DHG505 Digital Public History (3 credits)

This course exposes students to the theory, practices, and issues surrounding digital public history in adjacent fields at museums, libraries, governments, and historical and communal institutions. Students will explore methods of presenting, communicating, researching, and creating history with digital technology that is accessible to and engages the public, and will

have the opportunity to create their own work of digital public history in relation to contemporary concerns in Asian societies.

DHG506 3D Remodelling of Asian Heritage (3 credits)

This course will introduce students to applications in 3D modelling and basic skills in 3D modelling and animation. Students will focus on the challenges of digitally reconstructing Asia's past, problematise digital exhibition, and museums through critical heritage management, and public archaeology, etc., and take part in the reconstruction of a significant Asian cultural heritage. The course will also cover the ethical considerations on digital preservations and how digital approaches can contribute to the preservation of Asian cultural heritage sites and artifacts.

DHG507 Rethinking the Historical Archive (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the shifting landscape of historical archiving and preservation that has accompanied the 'digital turn.' The course will focus on how digital access to resources is reframing academic research, the potential benefits and innovations increased access has for the discipline, and also the pitfalls that commonly accompany the digital curation of source materials. Students will further encounter the ways programming, Optical Character Recognition, and the free version of Natural Language Processing can provide new access to - and new ways of working with - digitised archives. This course looks at both scholarly debates and a variety of archival digitisation and databasing projects to explore the research questions, methods, and logic behind their creation, and to critically frame the potential and limitations of digital archival research.

DHG508 Critical Digital History (3 credits)

This course offers students the chance to critically assess the digital methods used in historical studies and the digital ways through which history is presented to the public. Students will engage with scholarly criticisms of digital history practices. Questions that will be explored include the inclusivity/exclusivity of digital history, the limitations of relying on selected data, how historical narratives are controlled and communicated to the public, and whether AI can be used responsibly to reshape the field.

DHG601 Capstone Project (6 credits)

This capstone project enables students to deploy digital approaches and research methodologies learned throughout the master's programme, to explore in-depth relevant topics of personal interest, and to develop skills of critical research, analysis, the usage of digital applications, data organization and visualisation, presentation, and academic writing. The capstone research is conducted through individual or group (max 2 persons) work under direct supervision, with consultation meetings between students and advisors arranged roughly once a month. Students will work with a supervisor whose expertise includes topics relevant to their project and who will provide guidance and academic support with developing, researching, and writing the MA capstone paper.

Students choosing to work in pairs will be required to write a final paper of 9,000-10,000 words. Those working individually will be required to write a final paper of 5,000-6,000 words. Footnotes and quotations from primary and secondary sources in the main text are included in the word count, but appendices, tables, charts, maps, image captions, and bibliographies are excluded from the final word count. The capstone project may focus primarily on themes and concepts from within the fields of Digital History and its impact in Global Asia.

Last Updated: 21 December 2023