



# 新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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## UNIVERSITY HISTORY COURSE TO STRESS ASIA-PACIFIC LINKS

The Chinese University of Hong Kong is to revamp its history course structure, stressing Hong Kong's relations with Asia-Pacific countries as well as the world.

Two new courses, "China Today" and "World Today", will be introduced in the academic year 1994 to provide students with knowledge of history of international relations, said Professor Chan Hok-lam of the Department of History.

The past course structure had emphasized on Chinese History. The department aims to enhance students' understanding of Hong Kong's position in the context of the Asia-Pacific and the international arena. An area for enhancement will be History of Russia and East Europe and History of the Pacific Rim Countries.

Educated in Hong Kong, Prof Chan obtained his doctoral degree in history in Princeton University in 1967 and has been Professor of Chinese History and Chairman of the Chinese Studies Programme in Jackson School of International Studies since 1989. His research interests include Chinese political, economic, intellectual and cultural history during Sung, Yuan and Ming Dynasties, and he has particular interest in the history of the Jurch and Mongols.

Recently appointed Professor in the Chinese University, he said he would, for the first time in 30 years, give lectures in Cantonese. Prof Chan believes that the biculturalism of the University is very favourable to history research work for both scholars and students.

He explained: Chinese studying their own history would tend to be more subjective and hold an ethnocentric bias. While Hong Kong people share the same cultural heritage as people in China, they have a more international perspective and are willing to incorporate different viewpoints.

Hong Kong students often ask: "Why study history? What kind of job a history student will be offered?" While acknowledge that there is no easy answer, Prof Chan emphasized the intrinsic value of liberal arts education. Studying history would enhance students' understanding of the society and the culture of their own nation and train their critical thinking. This is an enormous wealth which one can put into good use for career development whatever one's future profession may be, he said.

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