

Lingnan University
Department of Visual Studies

Course Title	: Introduction to Chinese Art
Course Code	: VIS2101
Recommended Study Year	: 2 nd year
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture and tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 2 hours lecture per week 1 hour tutorial per week
Category in Major Programme	: Foundation
Prerequisite(s)	: N/A
Co-requisite(s)	: N/A
Exclusion(s)	: N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

The course is an introduction to Chinese art in its aesthetic and cultural contexts. It examines the full spectrum of the visual arts in China, ranging from those of the pre-dynastic periods to the twentieth century.

Aims

1. Developing students' ability to read and analyze the visual languages found in different forms of Chinese art.
2. Building on this, developing students' ability to react critically to artworks and to make explicit, reasoned evaluations expressing understanding and appreciation of different artistic traditions in China.
3. Enabling students to identify and articulate issues concerning art and culture, art and philosophy, as well as art and society.

Learning Outcomes

The course is structured according to themes and media relevant to different traditions in Chinese art, giving equal attention to techniques and artistic, aesthetic, and philosophical components. Completion of the course should grant students:

1. Basic knowledge of fundamental approaches to understanding and appreciating art in a Chinese context.
2. Awareness of the unique cultural context and development of Chinese art.
3. An ability to assess claims made about the significance of different Chinese art forms across time.

Indicative Content

1. How do we define 'Chinese art'?
2. What are the characteristics of Chinese art?
3. How do we read the new archaeological findings?
4. Why calligraphy and painting in Chinese tradition were treated as a form of 'high art' in history?
5. Why is landscape painting in Chinese tradition called *shanshui*? How is it different from its Western counterpart?
6. What is unique about traditional Chinese figure painting? Are there any real portraits in ancient Chinese painting?

7. What is the flower-and-bird painting tradition?
8. What is the significance of 'brushwork' in Chinese painting?
9. In what ways did urban culture and commercial values influence the development of Chinese art in later history?
10. Is Westernization the soul of modernity in Chinese painting?
11. How should we define 'Chinese art' nowadays?

Teaching Method

Lectures and discussions

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes outlined above will be measured by continuous assessments focused on the students' successful engagement with the lectures, tutorial discussions, and readings, as well as on students' capacity to articulate their thoughts in the presentations and written assignments. In addition, students' knowledge of the subject will be assessed by a final examination at the end of the term.

Assessment

50% Continuous Assessment

50% Final Examination

Required Readings

Sullivan, Michael. *The Arts of China*, 4th ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.

Clunas, Craig. *Art in China*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Supplementary Readings

Ebrey, Patricia. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Fong, Wen ed. *The Great Bronze Age of China*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1980.

Rawson, Jessica. *Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing*. London: Published for the Trustees of the British Museum by British Museum Press, 1995.

Tregear, Mary. *Song Ceramics*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1982.

Silbergeld, Jerome. *Chinese Painting Style*. Seattle: University of Washington, 1982.

Siren, Osvald. *Chinese Painting: Leading Masters and Principles*. New York: Hacker Art Books, 1973.

Barnhart, Richard et al. *Three Thousand Years of Chinese Painting*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997.

Chiang, Yee. *Chinese Calligraphy*. 3rd ed. Taipei: Confucius Publ. Co, 1971.

Laing, Ellen Johnston. *The Winking Owl: Art in the People's Republic of China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

Sullivan, Michael. *Art and artists of twentieth-century China*. Berkeley: University of California

Press, 1996.

朱國榮、胡知凡《改寫美術史 - 20世紀影響中國美術史的重大發現》. 上海：文匯出版社，2003 .

洪再新編著《中國美術史》. 杭州：中國美術學院出版社, 2000 .

李霖燦著《中國美術史稿》. 臺北：雄獅圖書公司，1987 .

高木森著《中國繪畫思想史 (增訂二版) 》. 三民書局股份有限公司，2004 .

李澤厚著《美的歷程》. 天津市：天津社會科學院出版社, 2001 .

James Cahill 原著；李渝譯《中國繪畫史》. 台北市：雄獅圖書股份有限公司, 1984 .

曹意強 . 范景中編 《20世紀中國畫》. 浙江：人民美術出版社，1997 .

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3* hours of class contact and 6* hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.

* Numbers of hours are subject to adjustment for individual courses.