



## **CIEE in Taipei, Taiwan**

<b>Course name:</b>	Understanding and Misunderstanding Art of China
<b>Course number:</b>	EAST 3002 CTAI/AHIS 3002 CTAI
<b>Programs offering course:</b>	Taipei Intensive Chinese Language and Culture
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>U.S. Semester Credits:</b>	3 credits
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	45 contact hours
<b>Term:</b>	Fall 2019

### **Course Description**

The purpose of the course is to teach students about Chinese art which include the vast and diverse objects such as jade carvings, lacquer and porcelain wares, painted scrolls and fans, sculptures in stone, bronze and wood, calligraphy and murals. The class will use art historical methods to introduce the various ways of understanding these objects: as art objects to be appreciated stylistically and as objects of function. In addition to the class lectures, another component of the class will be the required visits to museums in and around Taipei in order to gain first-hand experience in "looking" at and "talking" about Chinese art. These visits will include the National Palace Museum, the National Museum of History and the Museum of the Institute of History and Philology at the Academia Sinica, all of which house some of the best and most representative Chinese art works outside of China.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Learn the development of art in China present and past.
- Acquire the ability to identify artifacts from China and its style.
- Describe and analyze works of art, evaluate the social context of displays of art
- Understand the difference and connection of Taiwanese and Chinese art

### **Course Prerequisites**

No course prerequisites.

### **Methods of Instruction**

The teaching methods will consist of lectures with the aid of power-point images. The lectures will follow the contents of the required textbook. The three hour class sessions will alternate between class lectures on campus and museum/gallery visits. Students will be asked to participate in the analysis of art works, in class and during museum visits. Short written reports



about objects displayed in museums will be required. There will also be tests on materials covered in class. A final research paper is required at the end of the semester.

### **Assessment and Final Grade**

Grades:

Writing assignments—20%

Project—20%

Presentation—20%

Final open-book exam—30% (Slide ID/ short answers/ essay question)

Class participation—10%

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Readings**

Craig Clunas, *Art in China* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997 or 2009 edition).

Each student is required to read the week's text before class and contribute to class discussions.

#### **Writing Assignments, projects, and presentations**

There will be a writing assignment, a project, and a presentation throughout the semester, in which students will turn in and present on the class topics.

- Writing Assignments\*: 1000-1500 words typed and printed out.
- Project: design an exhibition of contemporary Chinese art
- Presentation in museum: review of exhibition (10-15min)

\*Instructions for written assignment:

Preparation for the written assignment: Students should read Wu Hung's *"The Art of 'Ritual Artifacts' (Liqi): Discourse and Practice"* and study the exhibitions in the Museum of the Institute of History and Philology at the Academia Sinica (10/12 visit.) Students need to pay more attention to the ritual artifacts.

In the written assignment: First, students need to explain what are ritual artifacts or liqi based on Prof. Wu's article. It is his contention that in order to understand these "special artifacts" from early China, so we don't simply consider them as an "art" but as a ritual objects. Moreover, we also have to comprehend the discourse of liqi and how the discourse and practice of these ritual objects were intertwined. In addition, students should also understand and explain the author's thought.

Then, students need to choose 2-3 ritual objects displayed in the two museums to illustrate them as manifestations of the concept of "liqi", and discuss these objects based



on Prof. Wu's questions: "What are their physical and visual properties? What were the artists' goals? What did they mean to their patrons and users? What did they do in facilitating people's activities? How did they express contemporary ideas? How were they related to the time of their creation...?" (Wu, p. 235) In short, how should we understand these objects from early China based on the idea of liqi?

### **Exams**

There will be a mid-term and final exams, in which students are required to synthesize and use the knowledge accumulated from the text, lecture and museum visits to complete the examinations.

### **Class participation**

Contribution in class and group discussions.

## **Weekly Schedule**

### **Week 1: Chinese Art and Taiwan**

*Ju, Jane C., "Chinese Art, the National Palace Museum, and Cold War Politics" in Partisan Canons, edited by Anna Brzyski, Durham: Duke University Press 2007, pp. 115-134*

### **Week 2: Art in China and Taiwan Today**

*Clunas, "Art in the Market-place," in Art in China, pp. 201-223*

*Ju, Jane C., "Nationalist Patriarchy and Women Painters in Taiwan under the Guomindang," in Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art, 2:1, 2015, pp. 31-43.*

### **Week 3: Introduction: What is art? What is Chinese art? pp. 9-13.**

**Project:** design an exhibition of contemporary Chinese art

### **Week 4: Art in the Tomb, pp. 15-43.**

### **Week 5: Art in the Tomb--museum visit**

(Museum of the Institute of History and Philology at the Academia Sinica)

**Writing Assignments:** 1000-1500 words typed and printed out. Assignment is based on Museum of the Institute of History and Philology at the Academia Sinica visits.



**Week 6: Holiday (No class)**

**Week 7: Art in the Temple**

**Week 8: Art in the Temple--museum visit**  
(National Museum of History)

**Week 9: Art at Court, pp. 45-87**

**Week 10: Art at Court--museum visit**  
(National Palace Museum)

**Week 11: Mid-term exam**

**Week 12: Art in the Life of the Elite, pp. 135-153.**

**Week 13: Art in the Life of the Elite, pp. 153-171.**

**Week 14: Art in the Life of the Elite--museum visit**  
(Taipei fine arts museum)

**Presentation in museum:** review of exhibition (10-15min)

**Week 15: Art in the Market-place**

*The Song and Yuan Dynasties to the Qing Dynasty, pp. 173-199.*

**Week 16: Final exam**

**Readings**

Required text:

*Craig Clunas, Art in China (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997 or 2009 edition).*