General Education English-teaching Course (Fall 2018)

**Artistic Charms of Chinese Traditional Culture**

Time: Tuesday, 9:55-11:35 AM

Location: H 4405Instructor: Dr. CHEN, Jia (School of Philosophy)

Email: [chenjia2312@fudan.edu.cn](mailto:chenjia2312@fudan.edu.cn)

Office 2519, West Guanghua Building

Office Hours: by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course provides a detailed, vivid introduction to the origin and main unique features of Chinese traditional culture with a focus on its distinctive artistic charms. It also presents an overview of the spirit and core values of Chinese culture from a philosophical perspective with an attempt to exemplify the inner mind, cultural character, the life views and aesthetic interests of the Chinese people. The overall aim of the course is to promote a broader and deeper understanding of the charms of Chinese arts and Chinese culture, which are often characterized as “suggestive but not articulate.” Though focusing on Chinese traditional culture, this course is also of important relevance to students today both in China and abroad since the profound world of meaning imbedded in Chinese ancient culture and arts still holds an essential key to a better understanding of the essence of contemporary Chinese culture. The course will therefore be suited to international students seeking to explore the diverse aspects of Chinese culture.

In this course, we will explore a variety of subjects ranging from ancient cultural treasures such as the painted pottery, the bronze, the tradition of rites and music, to enduring artworks of painting, poetry, garden, etc. This course attempts to present these subjects in such a way that allows students to achieve a basic view of the interrelatedness among Chinese culture, Chinese arts, and Chinese people’s contentment with a harmonious life.

**Schedule**:  
**I. The Cultural Genes of Chinese Art**

Class 1 (9/11) Introduction—the Origin and Features of Chinese Civilization

(Reading: Fung, Chap. 1 & 2)

Class 2 (9/18) Painted Pottery and Bronzeware: Images and Designs

(Reading: Ye & Zhu, Chap. 13; Li, Chap. 1, pp. 1-11)

Class 3 (9/25) Tradition of Music Education: the Rites Embedded in Music   
(Ye & Zhu, Chap. 12; Li, Chap. 1, pp.11-29)

No class on Oct. 2 (National Holiday Break)

Class 4 (10/9) *Book of Poetry*: Social Ethos and Customs

(Liu*,* pp.63-87; Fung, Chap. 4;   
*The Book of Poetry* is available at http://ctext.org/book-of-poetry/lessons-from-the-states

Class 5 (10/16) The Eight Diagrams: Complementary Relationship between Yin and Yang ( Fung, Chap. 12; Ye & Zhu, Chap.4,5)

**II. The Exchange of Cultures：China and the Abroad**

Class 6 (10/23) The Silk Road: Euro-Asian Trade (Ye & Zhu, Chap.7)

Class 7 (10/30) Buddha Statues: Exchange of Minds (Ye & Zhu, Chap.15, 8)

Class 8 (11/6) Shanghai Museum Art Tour

**III. Mature Forms of Chinese Classcical Art**

Class 9 (11/13) Calligraphy: the Tension of Energy

(Ye & Zhu, Chap.16; Murck and Fong, pp.21-44)

Class 10 (11/20) Ink-wash Painting: Far-reaching Tranquility

(Ye & Zhu,Chap.17, Turner)

Class 11 (11/27) Tang Poems and Song Iambic Verses: Masterpieces

throughout the Ages (Liu, part I: 3&4, pp.20-47)

Class 12 (12/4) Porcelain: Serene Elegance (Ye & Zhu, Chap.18)

Class 13 (12/11) Gardens: Beauty of Space (Ye & Zhu, Chap.19)  
Class 14 (12/18) Summary: East-West Comparison

**Course Requirement:**

Attendance (20%) + Class Participation &Presentation (30 %) + Final Paper (50%)

**Required Readings:**

Ye, Lang and Zhu, Liangzhi: *Insights into Chinese Culture*. Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, Beijing, 2008.

Fung, Yu-lan. *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*. Free Press, 1948. [pdf] \*

Li, Zehou*. The Chinese Aesthetic Tradition.* Trans. Maija Bell Samei.   
University of Hawai’i Press,2010. [pdf]

Liu, James. *The Art of Chinese Poetry*. The University of Chicago Press, 1962. [pdf]

A. Murck and W Fong eds., *Words and Images*: *Chinese Poetry, Calligraphy and Painting*, New York, 1991. [pdf]

Turner, Matthew, “Classical Chinese Landscape Painting and the Aesthetic Appreciation of Nature”, in *the Journal of Aesthetic Education*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (Spring, 2009), pp. 106-121. [pdf]

\* Readings in pdf can be downloaded from the course website

**Other References:**

Sullivan, Michael. *The Arts of China*. University of California Press, 1999.

*Confucius: The Analects*, bilingual edition, trans. D.C.Lau, The Chinese University Press, 1992.

*Lao Tzu: Tao Te Ching*, trans.D.C. Lau, Penguin Books, 1963.