

The Spirit of Chinese Art

<i>Course Code:</i>	<i>CHIN 170003.01</i>
<i>Course Title:</i>	<i>The Spirit of Chinese Art</i>
<i>Credit:</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Instructor Name:</i>	<i>LU Yang</i>
<i>E-Mail:</i>	<i>luyang@fudan.edu.cn</i>

Course Description

This course involves a survey of Chinese arts, in both of its ancient and contemporary forms, such as painted pottery, bronze vessel, painting, calligraphy, and film. Emphases will be given on the inner spirits of the relationship between Chinese arts and Chinese philosophy. Since often mythology coins a nation's cultural identity, even if in the unconscious level, the course will start its journey from ancient Chinese mythology, leading to inquiries such as in what sense female role play significant part in Chinese mythology, and how do you understand the unbending will rebellious force displayed in Chinese mythology? The first part of this course will focus on the discussion of early Chinese painting to show how the transcendental as well as secular spirits intertwined in the Chinese intellectual life.

Considering we live in an age of globalization and consumer society, however, contemporary Chinese popular culture will also be discussed among which the re-mapping of urban space will be a major topic. By "French Theory in China," this course will trace its Chinese reception back to the happy 1980s when due to the "open police," China began to digest Western avant-garde theories through their "Americanization." The course will indicate how Chinese academic fervency transmits from "theory" to "culture" as well. The course will spread over a series questions: Is there any concept in traditional Chinese culture corresponding to the western Nature? In what degree the cursive script of Chinese calligraphy corresponds to sword dancing? How do you understand the conditions of beauty, whether interior or exterior ones? And so on.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Seminar one: Philosophy of beauty: A general introduction

Seminar two: Chinese mythology (Part I. Myth of Creation)

Seminar three: Chinese mythology (Part I. Genealogy of Yellow Emperor)

Week 2

Seminar four: The spirit of primitive Chinese art

Seminar five: An introduction to Chinese painting

Seminar six: Chinese painting in early dynasties

Week 3

Seminar seven: Evolution of Chinese calligraphy

Seminar eight: Practice of Chinese painting

Seminar nine: Film: *Farewell My Concubine*

Week 4

Seminar ten: Chinese film before 1949

Seminar eleven: “French Theory” in China

Seminar twelve: Examination (paper)

Seminar thirteen: Discussion of the final paper

Readings Required

Li Zehou, *The Path of Beauty: A Study of Chinese Aesthetics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995.

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

Thorp, Robert, *Chinese Art & Culture*, Abrams, 2001.

Tregear, Mary, *Chinese Art*, Thames and Hudson, 1997.

TzenSieur, *Arvhives: Ancient Chinese Arts*, China House of Arts, 1986.

Yang Lihui, et al. *Handbook of Chinese Mythology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

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

Zhang Yingjin, *Chinese National Cinema*, Routledge, 2004.