



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# ART 211 Understanding Chinese Arts and Living

Summer 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 55 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:**TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course is designed to provide students with a profound understanding of life, human nature, relationships, personality, self-cultivation, self-awareness, moral enhancement, and harmonious connections with nature through the exploration of various Chinese artistic expressions. Throughout the duration of the course, students will examine and appreciate the rich tapestry of Chinese cultural expressions, gaining insights into the philosophical underpinnings and societal values embedded in these art forms

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Develop an appreciation for the rich cultural heritage of China through an exploration of various Chinese artistic expressions;
2. Examine the ways in which human connections serve as a source of inspiration for both visual and performing arts;
3. Cultivate a higher level of critical thinking regarding human nature, growth, and development through the analysis and interpretation of Chinese artistic works;
4. Develop the ability to articulate personal perspectives and insights regarding the connection between art and life;
5. Enhance proficiency in Chinese reading and writing abilities.

## **PREREQUISITES**

N/A

## **GRADING**



Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Quizzes	30 Points
2 Essays	20 Points
Midterm	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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### **Required Texts:**

1. John Lane, *Timeless Beauty In the Arts and Everyday Life*, 1st Edition, Green Books, 2003.
2. Silvia Fok, *Life and Death: Art and the Body in Contemporary China*, 1st Edition, Intellect Books, 2012.
3. John A. Lent; Xu Ying, *Comics Art in China*, 1st Edition, University Press of Mississippi, 2017.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
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Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 1: The production and reception of contemporary Chinese art  Topic 2: Life, death and the body in art  Topic 3: Corporeal Materials in Art  Topic 4: Transformative Roles of the Body in Art</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Quiz#1</p>
Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 5: The Consolations Of Beauty  Topic 6: Traditional Chinese aesthetics and philosophy  Topic 7: Sources Of Selfless Beauty  Topic 8: Cradle of Chinese Cartooning</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Essay#1</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 9: Manhua's Golden Age  Topic 10: Musical Instruments  Topic 11: Music and nature  Topic 12: Dance and Nature</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 13: Connection between music, dance, and self-awareness  Topic 14: Painting figures and interpersonal relationships  Topic 15: The art of literati painting  Topic 16: Calligraphy for Moral Growth</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Quiz#2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 17: Evolution of Chinese drama and opera  Topic 18: Chinese Literature: Poetry, Prose, and Novels  Topic 19: Chinese Cinema: Reflections of Life  Topic 20: Chinese Dance and Martial Arts</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Final Exam  Essay#2</p>

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.



Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors



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and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.