



XIAN ARTH360 Xi'an and Chinese Art History; History of Art in the Middle Kingdom: From the Neolithic to the Contemporary
The Alliance for Global Education Xi'an: Art, History and the Silk Road Program

Course Description:

This course will explore China's rich and diverse artistic heritage with a particular focus on art history and trends in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province and along the Silk Road. From the Neolithic Banpo Village and the internationally famed Terracotta Warriors of the Qin dynasty, to communist propaganda art and the explosive contemporary arts scene, students will learn about Chinese art up close and in person. In addition to these important artistic legacies, students will learn about the history of the region's calligraphy, folk arts, bronzes and Buddhist art. Outside the classroom, we will visit the outstanding Shaanxi History Museum, the folk art village of Hu Xian, and the calligraphy and painting galleries at Shuyuanmen and Huayuanmen.

Through lectures, class discussion, slide shows, guest speakers and local field trips, this course will not only provide a fascinating picture of Chinese Art from the Stone Age to the present day, it will attempt to present Art as a window through which we can begin to view and understand other aspects of Chinese culture such as Philosophy, History, and Religion.

Class Structure:

Three-hour classes once a week. Classes will be conducted in the form of lectures accompanied by slides of artwork with discussion. Regular classes will sometimes be supplemented with guest lectures by local artists and scholars, as well as museum and gallery visits.

Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies:

The purpose of this course is to develop a foundation for viewing and understanding the historical and contemporary implications of Art in China. While students will be introduced to a variety of art from different periods and expected to develop a basic understanding of Chinese Art as a whole, it is unrealistic to expect to become a Chinese Art History expert after one semester. Like many things in China, the seemingly endless variety alone can be enough to overwhelm even the most accomplished art historians and scholars. For the purposes of this course, students are recommended to set realistic goals. For example, first become an expert in a specific period, medium, or work of an artist that speaks loudest and most clearly to you.

Course Requirements, Evaluation and Grading Structure:

Dynasty Quiz

Students will have three chances to pass a dynasty quiz with a score of 100%. Failure to pass the quiz after three attempts will result in a deduction of one-third of a letter grade from the final course grade (For Example, the final grade would be reduced from an A to an A- if the dynasty quiz is not passed).

Participation: 10%

Participation is a key element of this course. The participation grade is comprised of five parts: attendance, evidence of preparation, active discussion, engagement with the readings and the works of art, and overall attitude.

Two response papers: 30% (15% each paper)

First Response Paper - Students will choose one piece of ancient art (can include painting, architecture, pottery etc) in Xi'an and write a short response paper of 3-4 pages that incorporates some outside research.

Second Response Paper – Students will choose one piece of modern art in Xi'an and write a short response paper of 3-4 pages that incorporates some outside research.

Final Research Paper and Presentation: 40%

The final research paper will be 5-7 pages and require a minimum of 4 outside resources. Students may propose paper topics or be assigned a topic by the professor. Topics must be finalized by week 8 of class. The paper will be handed in week 15 at the beginning of class before the presentations begin.

Final Exam (20%)

There will be a final exam at the end of the semester, covering the entire term's material.

Course & Attendance Policies

1. Late papers will not be accepted.
2. Attendance at all lectures is mandatory unless the student is ill and provides a note from the Resident Director excusing the absence. If you are ill, please e-mail me and the Resident Director in advance of the class to let me know you will be absent. ***Unexcused absences will result in a zero (0%) participation grade for that day***
3. Coming late to class also requires a note from the Resident Director to be excused. Lateness to class is disrespectful to your Professor and your fellow classmates as it disrupts the learning environment and fluidity of the lecture. ***Lateness will automatically result in a nonnegotiable 50% participation grade for that day.***
4. Students with excused absences will be expected to make up and turn in any missed work during the next normally scheduled class.

Reading Materials:

A set of photocopied reading material will be provided at the beginning of the course. Additional readings will be provided throughout the semester as needed.

Course Meeting and Reading Schedule

Week 1: Course Introduction / Chinese Geography and Dynastic Chronology

- Discuss class syllabus and assignments
- Introduction to Chinese Art, Geography and Dynasties
- The discovery and excavation of Ban' Po Village and Cemetery.

Readings:

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China, "Before the Dawn of History" **pp. 1-11**

Thorp & Vinograd Chinese Art & Culture, "Introducing Chinese Art and Culture" **pp. 14-25**

Thorp & Vinograd Chinese Art & Culture, "Prehistoric Roots: Late Neolithic Cultures" **pp. 26-53**

Weekend Trip – Ban' Po Village Site

Week 2: Prehistoric Roots of Chinese Art

- Introduction to Ritual Objects & Early Bronze Age

Readings:

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China, "The Shang Dynasty" **pp. 13-30**

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China, "The Zhou Dynasty" **pp. 31-38**

Wu Hung Monumentality in Early Chinese Art and Architecture, "The Concept of Liqi" & "The Legacy of Ritual Art: Costly Art" **pp. 18-27**

Rowson, Jessica The British Museum Book of Chinese Art, "The Neolithic, the Shang and the Western Zhou periods (c. 4500-771 BC)" **pp. 50-66**

Week 3: Art and Beginning of Recorded History

- Oracle bones, bronze vessels, clay figures and stone carvings.
- The development of Chinese characters.

Readings:

Wu Hung Monumentality in Early Chinese Art and Architecture, “The Triumph of Words” pp. 53-63, “The Chinese Bronze Age” pp. 64-76

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China, “The Period of the Warring States” pp. 43-52

Rowson, Jessica The British Museum Book of Chinese Art, “The Eastern Zhou, Qin, and Han Dynasties” pp. 67-74

First Response Paper Due

Week 4 & 5: SILK ROAD STUDY TRIP - Early Buddhist Art

- Introduction to the spread of Buddhist art in China
- Sculptures, Painting, Cave Temples
- The Tang Dynasty and the golden age of Buddhist Art at Mogao

Readings:

Thorp & Vinograd Chinese Art & Culture, “Age of the Dharma: The Period of Division” pp. 150-183

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China, “Buddhism” pp. 95-113

Week 6: The Mogao Grottoes

- Devils or Saviors? An examination of early Silk Road explorers
- Conservation and preservation of the Caves

Readings:

Whitfield & Agnew Cave Temples of Mogao: Art and History on the Silk Road, pp. TBA

Week 7: Guardians of the Tomb

- The Terracotta Warriors – history, discovery and preservation
- Palaces, Temples and Tombs

Readings:

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China, “Qin and Han Dynasties” pp. 54-67

Wu & Tsiang Body and Face in Chinese Visual Culture, “The Figurines of the First Emperor” pp. 38-47

Rowson, Jessica The British Museum Book of Chinese Art, “Sculpture for tombs and temples” pp. 134-166

薛永年 中国美术简史 , “雕塑艺术” pp. 64-73

Additional Recommended Readings:

Thorp & Vinograd Chinese Art & Culture, “The First Empires: Qin and Han” pp. 118-149

Wu Hung Monumentality in Early Chinese Art and Architecture, “From Temple to Tomb” pp. 110-121

Wu Hung Monumentality in Early Chinese Art and Architecture, “Voices of Funerary Monuments” pp. 189-196 & 201-213

Weekend Trip to Terracotta Warriors Museum

Week 8: Building the “City of Western Peace”

- Designing a city in Ancient China
- Early Art and Architecture in Xi’an

Readings:

Wu Hung Monumentality in Early Chinese Art and Architecture, “The Monumental City Chang’an” pp. 143-187

Rowson, Jessica The British Museum Book of Chinese Art, “Traditional Architecture” pp. 327-335

薛永年 中国美术简史 , “建筑艺术” pp. 74-78

Week 9: Chinese Painting I

- The Origins of Chinese Painting
- Ancient through early Tang Painting
- Political Painting and social commentary (5 Dynasties to Song Dynasty)

Readings:

Thorp & Vinograd Chinese Art & Culture, “A New Imperial State: Sui and Tang” pp. 184-223

Thorp & Vinograd Chinese Art & Culture, “Technologies and Culture of the Song” pp. 224-277

Yuan Chong, Xu 300 Tang Poems, Wang Wei “The Dale of Singing Birds” pp. 106-107; Li Bai “Thoughts on a Tranquil Night” pp. 140-141, “Invitation to Wine” pp. 158-159

Yuan Chong, Xu 300 Tang Poems, Zhang Ruoxu “The Moon over the River on a Spring Night” (春江花月夜) pp. 48-51

Recommended Readings:

Yang Xiu Three Thousand Years of Chinese Painting, pp. 15-85, 87-138 (“The Origins of Chinese Painting”)

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China pp. 76-82, 92-102, 137-143, 161-185

Hearn, Maxwell K How to Read Chinese Paintings pp. 6-9, 20-47, 56-73

Thorp & Vinograd Chinese Art & Culture, “Literary Culture and the Arts” pp. 261-265

Week 10: Chinese painting II

- Innovators and Eccentrics (Yuan Dynasty – 18th Century)
- Action and Reaction (18th Century – 1976)

Readings:

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China pp. 194-213, 219-233, 252-260.

Recommended Readings:

Yang Xiu 300 Years of Chinese Painting pp. 139-273

Wen C. Fong and James C. Y. Watt, Possessing the Past, pp. 274-277, 299-306, 402-417, 493-501

Hearn, Maxwell K How to Read Chinese Paintings, pp. 10-13, 74-83, 88-169

Mayching, Kao Century in Crisis pp. 213-225, 228-237

Week 11: Shaanxi Folk Art I – Northern Shaanxi Province

- The artists of northern Shaanxi Province
- The Themes and Purposes of Paper-cutting

Readings:

靳之林 《生命之树》 : “From *Taotie* to Lu Tou Hua” (Zhilin, Jin The Tree of Life), pp. 133-146

Week 12: Shaanxi Folk Art II – Art Village Visit

- Visit to Shaanxi Folk Arts Village – Hu Xian
- On site lecture from local artists
- Shaanxi Paper Cutting Class

Readings:

Hu Xian Village Handout

Second Response Paper Due

Week 13: Communist Art

- Communist Doctrine infiltrates the Arts
- Analysis of Mao Ze Dong's view of the Art
- The relationship of Art and Politics in China and the West

Readings:

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China, "The Twentieth Century" **pp. 274-292**

Thorp & Vinograd, Chinese Art & Culture, "Identity and Community in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Chinese Art", **366-384**; "Political Arts" **390-403**

Recommended Readings:

Andrews, Julia Painters and Politics in the People's Republic of China 1949- 1979, "The Cultural Revolution" **pp. 314-376**

Week 14: Contemporary Art

- Introduction and overview of Chinese Contemporary Art
- The promotion of Chinese Contemporary Art abroad
- Censorship and other obstacles for the Chinese Artist
- The Shaanxi Pop Art Scene

Readings:

Chui, Melissa Chinese Contemporary Art: 7 Things You Should Know **pp. 4-90**

Sullivan, Michael The Arts of China "Art in China Since the 1960s" **pp. 293-299**

Ma, Maggie "Memories of 1989" ArtZineChina.com, 2006.

Wu Hung, "Zhang Dali's Dialogue: Conversation with a City" Public Culture vol. 12, no. 3 (2000), **pp. 749-768.**

Visit contemporary art galleries in Xi'an

Week 15: Ending Lecture & Presentations

Term Papers Due

Class Presentations

Week 16: Finals Week

Final Test

Dynasty Timeline

Xia Dynasty ca. 2100-1600 BCE

Shang Dynasty ca. 1600-1100 BCE

Zhou Dynasty

Western Zhou ca. 1100-771 BCE

Eastern Zhou ca. 770-256 BCE

Spring and Autumn Period 770-476 BCE

Warring States Period 476-221 BCE

Qin Dynasty 221-206 BCE

Han Dynasty 206 BCE – 220 CE

Three Kingdoms 220-265

Six Dynasties

Western Jin 265-317

Eastern Jin 317-420

Southern and Northern Dynasties 420-589

Sui Dynasty 581-618

Tang Dynasty 618-907

Five Dynasties/Ten Kingdoms 907-960

Song Dynasty

Northern Song 960-1127

Southern Song 1127-1279

Jin Dynasty (Jurchen) 1115-1234

Yuan Dynasty (Mongol) 1271-1368

Ming Dynasty	1368-1644
Qing Dynasty (Manchu)	1644-1911
Republic	1912-1949
People's Republic	1949-present