

**Division of Humanities  
Tentative Course Syllabus**

**Course Code:** HUMA 2661  
**Course Title:** Chinese Oil Painting  
**Course Offered in:** Summer 2025  
**Course Instructor:** Dr. Anna Kwong

**Course Description:**

This course gives students knowledge of the development of oil painting in China. Focusing on the history of China in the 20th and 21st centuries, the course explores the social, cultural and political circumstances that favored, oppressed and directed the path of the development of Chinese oil painting in different periods.

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):**

	Course ILOs
1	Examine the social and political circumstances for the rapid growth of oil painting from late Qing Dynasty to the founding of the PRC in 1949
2	Analyse the relationship between the stylistic characteristics of Chinese oil painting and Communist ideologies between 1949 and 1979
3	Describe and discuss how Chinese avant-garde was born in the 1980s and the various art theories of the time
4	Evaluate the changes in the art circle after 1989 and their consequences in contemporary Chinese oil painting of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century

**Course Outline:**

Week	
1	Chinese Oil Painting from 16 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries
2	From Late Qing Period to Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century (1900-1919)
3	World Wars Period (1919-1949); Socialist Art (1949-1966)
4	Art of Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)
5	Post-Cultural Revolutionary Art (1976-1979)
6	New Art of Early 1980s

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<b>7</b>	China Avant-Garde (1985-1989)
<b>8</b>	China Avant-Garde (1985-1989)
<b>9</b>	Academic Art since the 1980s
<b>10</b>	1989 – The Turning Point
<b>11</b>	Globalization from the 1990s
<b>12</b>	Globalization from the 1990s
<b>13</b>	From Late 20 <sup>th</sup> to the Present Conclusion

**Planned Assessment Tasks:**

Short Quiz 1:	30%
Short Quiz 2:	30%
Final Exam:	30%
Attendance:	10%

**Readings:**

1. Doran, Valerie C. (Ed.) *China's New Art, Post-1989*. Hong Kong: Hanart T Z Gallery, 1993.
2. Pi, Li (Ed). *Chinese Art Since 1970: The M+ Sigg Collection*. Thames & Hudson, M+, 2022.
3. Smith, Karen (Ed.). *History of Chinese Oil Painting: From Realism to Post-Modernism*. Hong Kong: Schoeni Art Gallery, 1995.
4. Zhou, Yan. *A History of Contemporary Chinese Art: 1949 to Present*. Springer Nature Singapore, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-1141-7>