

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

UG Course

Fall 2024

Introduction to Chinese Art

HUMA1660

3 credits

No Prerequisites

Name: Li-tsui Flora Fu

Email: hmltfu@ust.hk

Office Hours: Thu 2:30-4:00 or by email appointment

Course Description

This course is an introduction to Chinese visual arts from the pre-dynastic periods to the present day. Through lectures, museum tours, guest talks, written essays, and group projects, we examine how art objects are produced and used in ancient China as well as in Hong Kong today. Emphasis will be placed on the appreciation of art objects in their cultural contexts, and the ability to talk and think about art.

Through lectures, in-class discussions, and students' presentations, this course aims to develop students' ability to read and analyze visual languages found in different forms of Chinese art, to react critically to artworks, and to make reasoned evaluations based on their understanding and appreciation of different artistic traditions in China.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- ILO1 Demonstrate a verbal and analytical familiarity with the formal and technical properties of different forms of Chinese art across time.
- ILO2 Apply taught concepts and visual analysis to their appreciation of different forms of traditional Chinese art.
- ILO3 Review and report on an exhibition of traditional Chinese art, discuss the formal, stylistic, material, and technical features of the art works, and make reasoned evaluation by relating them to what they have learned in class.
- ILO4 Collect visual and textual data about a genre of Chinese art, discuss its formal characteristics, materials, techniques, and its meanings against the historical and cultural context of its production and circulation.
- ILO5 Discuss and communicate their understanding of Chinese art in oral (Putonghua) and written Chinese.

Class Schedule and Topics

LT-K, Tue and Thu, 16:30-17:50

Venue for Visual Quizzes: to be announced.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday		Thursday		Week
3	Introduction	5	Neolithic Pottery	1
10	Jade for the Ruling Class I	12	Jade for the Ruling Class II	2
17	Ritual Bronze Vessels I	19	Ritual Bronze Vessels II	3
24	Arts for the Afterlife I Group List Due	26	Arts for the Afterlife II	4

OCTOBER

Tuesday		Thursday		Week
1	<i>Holiday</i>	3	<i>Guest talk: Ancient Chinese Gold 中國古代金器</i>	5
8	Visual Quiz I	10	Art for the Dharma I	6
15	Art for the Dharma II	17	Ceramics I	7
22	Ceramics II Group Project Presentation Topic Due	24	Calligraphy I	8
29	Calligraphy II	31	Chinese Painting	9

NOVEMBER

Tuesday		Thursday		Week
5	Chinese Architecture and Garden	7	Visual Quiz II	10
12	<i>Guest Talk : A Chinese Garden in Paintings: Spatial Narratives and Visual Experiences</i>	14	<i>Field Trip : CUHK Art Museum (Scheduled on Nov 2) Hong Kong Art Museum (Scheduled on Nov 14)</i>	11
19	Group Presentations 1-5	21	Group Presentations 6-10	12
26	Group Presentations 11-15 Group 1-5 Project Reports due	28	Group Presentations 15-20 Group 6-10 Project Reports due	13

DECEMBER

Tuesday		Thursday		Week
3	Group 11-15 Project Reports due	5	Group 16-20 Project Reports due Individual Field Trip Report due	14

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided below, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Assessments:

1	Two Visual Quizzes Multiple choice and short essay questions.	25% x 2
2-1	Group Project Oral presentation with PPT	25%
2-2	Group Project Written paper	5%
3	Attendance Unexcused absence from lectures Absence from guest talks and group project presentations	10% -1% -2%
4	Field Trip Report	5%
5	Class participation You are encouraged to join discussion and ask questions during lectures, guest talks, and group presentations. The first remark/question in class will earn 2 points. Each following question/remark in class or comment on Canvas will earn 1 point. Participation points will be capped at 5. Only questions/comments related to course materials will be rewarded.	5%

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Visual Quiz x 2	50%	8/10/2024; 07/11/2024
Group Project Presentation	25%	19/11, 21/11, 26/11, 28/11
Group Project Written Report	5%	26/11, 28/11, 03/12, 05/12
Field Trip Report	5%	29/11/2024
Class Participation	5%	Oral questions/remarks in class/guest talks/group project presentations, or written comments posted on the same day as the lecture/guest talks/group project presentations
Attendance	10%	Attendance is checked to ensure students' in-class participation

* Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks of the due date.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
In-class participation	ILO2, ILO5	This task check students' grasp of visual analysis and taught concept (ILO1) through their questions and comments in oral (Putonghua) and written Chinese (ILO5).
Visual Quiz	ILO1, ILO2, ILO5	Multiple choice questions test students' knowledge about the formal and technical properties of various forms of Chinese art in different time periods (ILO1). Short essay questions test their ability to apply taught concepts and visual analysis to their appreciation of art

		objects (ILO2) and to communicate their understanding in written Chinese (ILO5).
Group Project Presentation	ILO2, ILO4, ILO5	This task assesses students' ability to collect visual and textual data about a genre of Chinese art (ILO 4), and to present their findings by applying taught concepts and visual analysis learned in class (ILO2) in oral Chinese (ILO5).
Group Project Report	ILO2, ILO4, ILO5	This task assesses students' ability to collect visual and textual data about a genre of Chinese art (ILO 4), and to present their findings by applying taught concepts and visual analysis learned in class (ILO2) in written Chinese (ILO5).
Field Trip Report	ILO3, ILO5	This task assesses students' ability to review and report on an exhibition of traditional Chinese art, discuss the formal, stylistic, material, and technical features of the art works, and make reasoned evaluation by relating them to what they have learned in class (ILO3, ILO5).

Assignment Tasks and Grading Rubrics

Visual Quiz

In each Visual Quiz, MC questions (15%) test your understanding and recognition of objects introduced in lectures. Short essay questions (10%) show objects not seen in class and test your ability to assign them to historical periods and cultures based on your understanding of course materials and application of visual analysis skills relating them to objects seen in class. Each Visual Quiz will take up 80 minutes of a regular class.

Descriptors of Range of Scores for short essay questions in Quiz: 10%

Scores	Elaboration
Excellent Performance 10	Answers are complete, insightful, and well-articulated, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the material covered and excellent application of visual analysis to attribute objects to their time and culture.
Good Performance 8-9	Answers exhibit a strong understanding of course materials, a solid grasp of the knowledge acquired, and a confident application of visual analysis, but contain some inaccuracies in attributing objects to their time and culture.
Satisfactory Performance 6-7	Answers display a satisfactory understanding of the course materials and a general familiarity with the subject and visual analysis but are lacking in detail to support attribution.

Poor Performance 4-5	Answers are incomplete or contain significant errors, reflecting a poor grasp of the subject and limited understanding of the course materials and poor application of visual analysis.
Extremely Poor Performance 0-3	Answers are missing or entirely inaccurate, indicating a poor understanding of the course materials, an extremely poor comprehension of the essential content, and an inadequate application of visual analysis.

Group Project Presentation

For group projects, you will form teams of 5 people (the actual number of group mates will depend on the number of confirmed enrollment).

After consulting with the instructor, each team will present an artwork/a group of art works that interests you. You could talk about the form and material (aesthetic, visual, textile quality), production (techniques/materials, artists/artisans), functions, circulation, as well as historical, social and cultural meanings.

The works selected could belong to a genre of traditional Chinese art not covered in class, the continuation/transformation of a course-introduced art genre in contemporary society, or even non-Chinese art influenced by ancient Chinese art. You could conduct your research through in-person visits, museum websites, books, and various sources.

The results of group projects are to be presented orally in class with PPT in 15 minutes (12 min presentation + 3 min Q&A). Written reports could be handed in at the time of presentation or within a week. Guidelines and schedules for project consultations will be provided later.

Marking scheme for project presentation (group assessment)

Assessment criteria	Elaboration of the criteria	Weighting
Preparation and PPT visuals	quality of presentation file, effort put into the design and polishing	25
Research and contents	sufficiency, relevance and accuracy of content, clarity and persuasiveness, originality and critical thinking, application of what you have learned in class	60
Presentation skills	ability to arouse attention and encourage classroom interaction	10
Coordination between partners	evidence of positive interaction between partners in the preparatory work and during presentation	5
Total		100 x 25%

Marking scheme for project report (group assessment)

Assessment criteria	Elaboration of the criteria	Weighting
Research and contents	sufficiency, relevance and accuracy of content, no redundancy; any improvement after presentation	2%
Originality of writing /use of language	no plagiarism (acknowledgement of AI assistant, if any), ability to use technical language and terms, writing style	2%

Format and editing	MLA style in-text citations, footnotes or endnotes, works cited, captions, editing, proof-reading	1%
Total		5%

Descriptors of Range of Scores for Group Project and Presentation:

Scores	Short Description	Elaboration on the description
23-25	Excellent Performance	Research is comprehensive and insightful. Demonstrates a high degree of originality and critical thinking. Presentation is well-organized, engaging and delivered with confidence. Visual aids are clear and well-designed.
20-22	Good Performance	Research is quite good. Shows a certain degree of originality and critical thinking. Presentation is effective. Visual aids are of good quality.
16-19	Satisfactory Performance	Demonstrates sufficient work and fair preparation. Presentation is banal and delivered satisfactorily to meet basic learning goals. Visual aids are basic.
11-15	Poor Performance	Insufficient work in all aspects. Presentation is not effective. Visual aids are sloppy and may contain some mistakes.
0-10	Extremely Poor Performance	Extremely poor research and preparation. Frequently absent from consultations. Unable to improve and/or take in advice for improvement. Presentation is a total failure.

Field Trip Report

Choose one of the scheduled or listed field trips as the subject of your report. Describe your overall impression about the exhibition, comment on the display of exhibited objects and arrangement of texts and images to facilitate your understanding. You should also choose two objects as the focus of your observation and try to relate it to what you have learned in class. If you go on the field trip on your own, you need to attach a selfie of the visit in your report.

CUHK Art Museum 香港中文大學文物館

Amazing Clay: Masterpieces from the Ceramic Collection of CUHK Art Museum

窯火天工：香港中文大學文物館藏陶瓷精選

The Bei Shan Tang Legacy: Chinese Seals

北山汲古：中國璽印

Scheduled on November 2

Hong Kong Museum of Art

Seeing Art Anew: Mounting and Conservation of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy

另眼相看——中國書畫的裝裱與保護

Scheduled on November 14

Tsz Shan Monastery Buddhist Art Museum 慈山寺佛教博物館

Hong Kong Palace Museum 香港文化故宮

Brilliance: Ming Dynasty Ceramic Treasures from the Palace Museum, 1368–1644

流光彰色—故宮博物院藏明代陶瓷珍品

Stories Untold — Figure Paintings of the Ming Dynasty from the Palace Museum

故事新說—故宮博物院藏明代人物畫名品

Marking scheme for field trip report (individual assessment)

Assessment criteria	Elaboration of the criteria	Weighting
Overall comment on the exhibition display	Insightful comment and critical thinking	1%
In-depth observation of selected objects	Visual analysis, relation to course materials, personal observation	3%
Originality of writing /use of language	No plagiarism (acknowledgement of AI assistant, if any), ability to use technical language and terms learned in class	1%
Total		5%

Final Grade Descriptors:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of the course material, in-depth knowledge of key concepts, confident application of visual analysis. Exhibits a high capacity for intellectual advancement, going beyond core requirements to achieve learning goals.
B	Good Performance	Shows good understanding of the course content. Displays high motivation to learn and a good level of critical thinking and visual analysis.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate knowledge of course material and some capacity for critical thinking and visual analysis. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Has limited understanding of the course content. Knowledge is incomplete and inaccurate. Shows a low level of critical thinking and visual analysis.
F	Fail	Demonstrates poor understanding of the course material and shows limited ability to think critically or analytically. Exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals.

Course AI Policy

The use of Generative AI is optional and permitted to assist students with brainstorming, drafting, and generating their presentation materials and project reports with proper acknowledgement. The use of Generative AI is strictly prohibited in in-class visual quizzes and field trip reports.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

Make-up Policy

Make-up quiz/exam will only be offered to those who cannot attend due to unpredictable reasons and with mark reduction.

Required Texts and Materials

The weekly reading assignments are available at Canvas Course website. You can also find books and catalogues in reserve in the library.

Reference textbook:

Michael Sullivan, *The Arts of China* (Berkeley: University of California Press, c1984. **N7340.S92 1984 (2 copies)**)

《中國藝術史》(台北: 南天書局, 1985) **N7340.S9212 1985 (2 copies)**

Week 1

Reading Assignment:

鄧白, 〈源遠流長豐富多彩的中國陶瓷〉, 《中國美術全集.工藝美術.陶瓷上》, pp. 5-15,

Reference images:

《中國美術全集.工藝美術.陶瓷》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.30 pt.1, 2, 3.**

Week 2

Reading Assignment:

楊伯達, 〈中國古代玉器發展歷程〉, 《中國美術全集.工藝美術.玉器》 pp. 1-6。

Reference images:

《中國美術全集.工藝美術.玉器》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.34**

Week 3

Reading Assignment:

李學勤, 〈中國青銅器的起源與發展〉, 《中國美術全集.工藝美術.青銅器》, pp. 1-17。

Reference images:

《中國美術全集.工藝美術.青銅器》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.31 pt.1&2**

Reference Reading:

童宇, 〈從四種基礎工藝看中國古代金工的發展〉, 載蘇州博物館編, 《黃金為尚: 歷史·交流·工藝》展覽圖錄 (2021 年待刊)。

Emma Bunker, "Gold in the Ancient Chinese World: A Cultural Puzzle," *Artibus Asiae* (1993, Vol.53): 27–50.

Week 4

Reading Assignment:

〈雕塑藝術〉《中國文化導讀》, 頁 410-429. **DS721 Y388 1999**

Reference images:

《中國美術全集.工藝美術 / 秦漢雕塑》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.18**

《中國美術全集 / 魏晉南北朝雕塑》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.19**

《中國美術全集 / 隋唐雕塑》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.20**

Week 5-6

Reading Assignment:

〈雕塑藝術〉《中國文化導讀》，頁 410-429.

劉玉權, 〈敦煌彩塑的特點與風格〉, 《中國美術全集.敦煌彩塑》, pp. 19-31.

Reference images:

- 《中國美術全集 / 敦煌彩塑》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.23**
- 《中國美術全集 / 麥積山石窟雕塑》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.24**
- 《中國美術全集 / 雲岡石窟雕刻》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.26**
- 《中國美術全集 / 龍門石窟雕刻》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.27**

Week 7

Reading Assignment:

〈海上絲綢之路〉《中國文化導讀》， **DS721 Y388 1999 (2 copies)**, 頁 368-383.

< 隋、唐、宋時期的中國陶瓷 >, 《陶瓷 / 中國美術全集》, pt. 2, pp. 1-30.

< 中國元明清陶瓷美術 >, 《陶瓷 / 中國美術全集》, pt.3, pp. 1-25.

Reference images:

《中國美術全集.工藝美術.陶瓷》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.30 pt.1, 2, 3.**

References:

"Ceramics for Use," *British Museum Book of Chinese Art*, **N7342.B75 1993**, pp. 212-255.

李知宴《中國陶瓷文化史》, **NK4165 L517 1996**

劉良佑《陶瓷》, **NK4165 L553 1987**

Week 8

Reading Assignment:

〈書法藝術〉《中國文化導讀》，頁 430-457.

Reference images:

《中國美術全集 – 書法》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v.45-49**

Week 9

Reading Assignment:

高居翰, 《中國繪畫史》 Closed reserve ND1043.C2812 1984

王耀庭, 《繪畫》 Closed reserve ND1040.W37 1985

Reference images:

《中國美術全集》繪畫編 vols. 1 & 2

Week 10

Reading Assignment:

〈中國建築之特徵〉, 梁思成《中國建築史》, .頁 11-25, **NA1540 L537 1998**

〈園林建築藝術〉《中國文化導讀》，頁 602-615.

Reference images:

《宮殿建/築 / 中國美術全集》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v. 38**

《園林建築 / 中國美術全集》 **N7342.Z46 1984 v. 40**

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The

University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University’s definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.