Chinese Calligraphy 01:165:111:01  Fall 2019

Time: Tuesday & Wednesday, 11:45~12:40 pm (short period) at HH B3
Instructor: Yu-I Hsieh
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Office: Scott Hall 335 and mailbox at Scott Hall 330.
Office Hour: Friday 3:00-4:00 pm AND by appt.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is an introduction to the principles, techniques, and art of Chinese calligraphy. Emphasis will be placed on the techniques of using the Chinese writing brush, execution of individual strokes, and construction of Chinese characters. Practice is the major and the most significant part of the course. It is hoped that by the end of the session students will have developed facility with the Chinese characters in the regular style. In addition, the students are expected to acquire an understanding and appreciation of the aesthetics of Chinese calligraphy and its role in Chinese culture.

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance, Practice and Concentration (10%)
2. Final scroll writings (15%) and assignments (30%)
3. Midterm examination— (20%)
4. Final Exam (25%)

Ground Rules:
1. Attendance for every class and throughout the entire class period is mandatory. After three absences, every absence will bring your final grade down by half a letter grade. Six absences will automatically lead to a failing grade of the course. If you arrive later than 12:00pm, it will be counted as half-absence. If you are habitually late to class, I will add the minutes you are late to each class meeting and deduct it from your grade accordingly.

2. Attendance does not simply mean showing up. Only those who never miss any single class and always pay full attention on the instructions and their own practice will get full points (10 points) for attendance. No electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, iPads, iPhones, etc.) are allowed during the class meetings. If you are texting or studying for other courses, you will be marked as absent without notification. If you use any electronic devices in class—even just for one time, you forfeit the possibility of getting full credits (10 points) for the attendance part of your grade.

3. Late homework will NOT be accepted or graded.

4. “Tracing” the handouts or the instructor’s writing, asking someone else to do the homework for you, or exchanging test papers during exams is considered violations against academic integrity. You are required to emulate the writing, not “copy” the handout directly. Anyone who is found to commit such actions will get an F for their homework or exam, and the case will be reported to their dean. For further regulations regarding academic integrity, students are expected to review and follow the University’s Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers

5. Calligraphy writing is a spiritual practice. Therefore, please remain quiet in the classroom. If you chat too much in the classroom, I will ask you to leave the classroom and you will be marked absent.
6. Be sure to address your classmates and your instructor in an acceptable, polite manner. For instance, you should address me as Instructor or Professor when you write me emails. Most importantly, this is a cultural course taught in English. All the instructions, exams and communications will be conducted in English. Therefore, you need to use proper, formal English to communicate with the instructor in class and out of class regarding academic matter. You are required to use your personal scarletmail account if you need to email me.

7. In every single class meeting, you are required to clean thoroughly your desk, the floor, your seating area, the classroom, the sink, and bathroom where you wash your writing materials. Failure to clean up will result in your participation grade—one point off from your final grade for every single time you fail to clean up.

Required Books and Materials:


2. Chinese writing brush (app. 1 1/4 inches tip), Chinese writing paper, Chinese ink and container (ink stand or soy sauce dish as a substitute), scroll paper (you won’t need the scroll paper until November).

You should order all the materials from Amazon, or get them at Kam Man Food Market, located at 511 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ 08817. (732) 248-9611.

** The materials can be found in the glass cabinet located on aisle 1. You need to talk to the person at the service desk to unlock the glass cabinet for you. Do NOT purchase the brush from Kam Man since the quality is subpar. You need to purchase brush separately.

3. Bring newspapers, a water container, and napkins to class every time (to help the absorbency and keep your desk clean).

Course Schedule:
This schedule is subject to change at any point during the semester at the discretion of the instructor.
September 3 & 4  Course introduction and preliminaries
September 10 & 11  Introduction of writing instruments, brush holding, and techniques—therefore, everyone should have Chinese brush, paper, and ink available by the class meeting on September 10. If you don’t have materials with you on Sep. 10, you will be counted as absent even if you show up.
September 17 & 18  Introduction of basic strokes.
September 24 & 25  Continuing practice of basic strokes (Read Ch. 1 & 2 before class).
October 1 & 2  Individual strokes and practice (Read Ch. 5 & 6 before class).
October 8 & 9  Quiz & individual strokes and practices
October 15 & 16  Finish up all the practice on basic strokes.
October 22 & 23  Midterm Week
October 29 & 30  Practice of simple characters
November 5 & 6  Composition and placement. (Read Ch. 7 before class).
November 12 & 13  Characters drawing.
November 19 & 20  Practice with classical work and scroll writing
November 26 & 27  No Class due to the Adjusted Schedule of Thanksgiving Week
December 3 & 4  Scroll Writing
December 10  In-Class Final Scroll Writing  December 11  Review for Final Exam