

# UGEA 2110C – Introduction to Chinese Culture

Term 2, 2017  
Course Outline

**Time: Wednesday 14:30-17:15**

**Location: LSK 515**

## Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the culture of China. Specifically, we will examine what is meant by the word culture and how such an understanding influenced the development of Chinese civilization from its beginning through the pre-modern period. In order to provide as comprehensive an overview as possible, each week's lecture will cover a different component of China's cultural heritage, examples of which include: philosophy and religion, literature and the arts, women and society, technology and science, food and theories of health, and statecraft. With this knowledge in hand, you will be well-prepared to undertake other, more specialized courses on China no matter the time period.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the main characteristics of Chinese culture, especially those elements in the fields of philosophy, religion, literature, society, and governance, and to explain the relations between them.
2. Assess Chinese culture by comparing and contrasting its various elements and their theoretical characteristics.
3. Reflect on the significance of Chinese culture in contemporary society and how it can be applied (or not) to improve our quality of life.

## Topics

See lecture schedule below

## Learning Activities

1. Read and give thought to the assigned readings.
2. Develop the skills mentioned above in the Learning Outcomes.
3. Attend class lectures and contribute to the discussion at hand.

## Assessment Scheme

Task	Description	Weight
Class Participation	-	10%
Test #1	1 hour	25%
Test #2	1 hour	25%
Research Paper	6 pages	40%

## Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course; we will use individual readings posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for downloading and reading them before lecture. The course schedule shows which texts will be covered for each lecture. The full list is as follows:

Ames, Roger. *The Art of Rulership: A Study in Ancient Chinese Political Thought*. University of Hawaii Press, 1983.

Benn, Charles. *Daily Life in Traditional China: The Tang Dynasty*. Greenwood Press, 2002.

Bonds, Alexandra. *Beijing Opera Costumes: The Visual Communication of Character and Culture*. University of Hawaii Press, 2008.

Chen, Tingyou. *Chinese Calligraphy*. Translated by Ren Lingjuan. China International Press, 2003.

Cook, Constance. *Death in Ancient China: The Tale of One Man's Journey*. Brill, 2006.

Elman, Benjamin. "The Civil Examination System in Late Imperial China, 1400-1900" *Frontiers of History in China*, 8.1 (2013): 32–50.

Fenollosa, Ernest. *Epochs of Chinese and Japanese Arts: An Outline History of East Asiatic Design*. Stone Bridge Press, 2007.

Goldin, Paul. "The Myth that China has no Creation Myth" *Monumenta Serica*, 56 (2008): 1-22.

Hinsch, Bret. *Women in Early Imperial China*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers Inc., 2011.

Lai, Karyn. *An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Luo, Yuming. *A Concise History of Chinese Literature*. Brill, 2011.

Temple, Robert. *The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery and Invention*. Simon and Schuster, 2007.

## In-Class Tests

This course includes two 60-minute tests. Each test is worth 25 marks and contains two parts: short identification questions and an essay. **No make-up tests** are allowed except for a documented medical emergency. The first test will be held Feb. 28; the second on April 11 (shorter lectures will be given on these days).

## Research Paper

You will write one term paper, in English, on one of the topics covered in this course. Comparative papers are not allowed. Online materials are also not allowed. The paper is due in class on April 18. **Late papers will not be accepted, no matter the reason!** The format should be: 1-inch margins, 2-line spacing, 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Include a separate cover page containing the title of your paper, your name and student number, the course code, and date of submission. You must cite any and all material that is not of your own creation. The citation format should be in-text brackets where you will only give the author's family name and page number of the text being quoted or summarized, i.e. (Chai, 100). If you have two authors with the same family name, or you are using multiple texts from the same author, include the year of publication, i.e. (Chai 2017, 100). All remaining information is given in the bibliography (use a separate page at the end of your paper), i.e. (Chai, David. *The title of the book in italics*. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 2017). The minimum length of each paper is **6 pages**, not including the title page and bibliography. If you do not follow these instructions, I will reduce your mark by 5%. The term paper is worth 40 points and I will assign these based on how well you organize your argument, how clearly it is written, and your ability to include and analyze scholarly material.

## Course Schedule

Lecture	Lecture Topic	Readings	Remarks
<b>1</b> (Jan 10)	Course Outline; Mythology	Goldin	
<b>2</b> (Jan 17)	Language	Chen	
<b>3</b> (Jan 24)	Philosophy	Lai (Confucius)	
<b>4</b> (Jan 31)	Philosophy	Lai (Laozi)	
<b>5</b> (Feb 7)	Religion	Lai (Buddhism)	
<b>6</b> (Feb 14)	Education	Elman	
<b>Chinese New Year Holiday (Feb. 15-21)</b>			
<b>7</b> (Feb 28)	Visual Arts	Fenollosa	<b>Test #1</b>
<b>8</b> (Mar 7)	Women	Hinsch	
<b>9</b> (Mar 14)	Death & Mourning	Cook	
<b>10</b> (Mar 21)	Health & Medicine	Benn	
<b>11</b> (Mar 28)	Literature	Luo	
<b>12</b> (Apr 4)	Statecraft	Ames	
<b>13</b> (Apr 11)	Chinese Opera	Bonds	<b>Test #2</b>
<b>14</b> (Apr 18)	Technology	Temple	<b>Term Paper due</b>

\* This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

### Details of Course Website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

### Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

### Contact Information

<b>Professor D. Chai</b>	
Office	Room 422, Fung King Hey Building
Email	davidchai@cuhk.edu.hk
Hours	Drop-by anytime. If you need to see me at a specific time/day, contact me by email first