

**Rutgers University**

**Spring 2009**

**Chinese Calligraphy (01:165:111)**

Instructor: Yuru Wu, 323 Scott Hall

Tel: 932-5592

Email: yuruwu@rci.rutgers.edu

Office hour: 2:40 pm - 3:40 pm (T), or by appointment

Time & Place: 11:30 am-12:50 pm (T) , HH-B4

Department Office: 330 Scott Hall, 932-7605

### **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 brushes, the execution of individual strokes, and the construction of the Chinese characters. *Practice* is the major and the most significant part of the course. It is hoped that by the end of the session the 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 and effort (20%)
2. Weekly assignments (20%)
3. Midterm exam (20%)
4. Final scroll writing (20%)
5. Final exam (20%)
6. 2-3 page paper (optional 1-3%)

### **Ground Rules:**

1. Since this class meets only once a week, your attendance is absolutely critical. The first unexcused absence will result in a reduction of **2 points** of your final grade, and the second one, **4 points**. **Three unexcused absences will lead to F automatically**. Absences can be excused only for religious reasons, emergencies, or by presentation of a Dean's note. If you cannot attend class due to religious and family situations, please contact me **in advance**. Missing one class more than 30 minutes will be counted as **half-absence**. One hour, **full absence**.
2. You are required to turn in your weekly assignments on time. Late homework will not receive full credit.
3. Missing a scheduled exam without prior permission will result in a **zero** for that exam.

4. Students are expected to review and follow the University's Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students (i.e., plagiarism). Information for this policy can be found at <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/>
5. This syllabus is subject to change during the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Required Books and Materials:**

1. Chiang, Yee, *Chinese Calligraphy*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA 1979
2. Chinese writing brush (app. 1 1/4 inches tip), Chinese writing paper, (12 characters per sheet for practice and white scroll writing paper for your final project), bottled ink and container (ink stand).  
These materials are available at the **World Journal Bookstore** in Edison, 511 Old Post Road, Suite 2, NJ 08817 (Route 1 South, next to Kam Man Food Market). Tel: 732-287-1372
3. Desk pad (or newspaper), bamboo roll (optional), water container (for soaking the new brush)

### **Other Recommended Readings:**

1. Harris, Robert E., Fong Wen C. *The Embodied Image: Chinese Calligraphy from the John B. Elliott Collection*, Princeton University in association with Harry N. Abrams, 1999. This book is a valuable volume that provides a handsome collection of ancient calligrapher's works, accompanied by useful essays and historical overviews. Art Museum in College Avenue carries this book.
2. Ch'en Chih-mai, *Chinese Calligraphers and Their Art*, Melbourne University Press, 1966 (distributed by Cambridge University Press), especially chapters 11-17, pp. 174-276.
3. Lai, T.C., *Chinese Calligraphy: An Introduction*, University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1982 (paperback edition), especially Introduction ix-xvi and pp 233-246.
4. Fu, Shen C.Y., *Trace of the Brush: Studies in Chinese Calligraphy*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1977, especially part IV: "The Running and Standard Script Traditions", pp 125-175, and part I: "Reproduction and Forgery in Chinese Calligraphy", pp. 1-20.

## **Course Schedule:**

- 1/20 Course introduction and preliminaries
- 1/27 Introduction of writing instruments, brush holding, and basic strokes (#1,#3,#4).  
Read Chapter 1 & Chapter 5.
- 2/3 Continuing practice of basic strokes (#9,#10,#11,#13,#20,#21,#24)  
Read Chapter 8.
- 2/10 Continuing practice of basic strokes (#2,#14,#15,#16).  
Read Chapter 3.
- 2/17 Continuing practice of basic strokes (#18,#19,#25,#26).
- 2/24 Continuing practice of basic strokes (#27,#30,#31,#32).  
Read Chapter 6.
- 3/3 Finish up the practice on basic strokes.
- 3/10 **Midterm Exam (written exam and in-class brush writing)**
- 3/17 Spring Break
- 3/24 Practice of simple characters  
Read Chapter 2.
- 3/31 Practice of simple characters  
Read Chapter 7, pp 166-176.
- 4/7 Practice of simple characters  
Read Chapter 7, pp 177-185.
- 4/14 Practice of scroll writing  
Read Chapter 4.
- 4/21 Practice of scroll writing
- 4/28 **In-class scroll writing**
- 5/13 **Final Exam (W)4:00pm -7:00 pm & Final paper (optional) due**