

Chinese Calligraphy 01:165:111:02 Fall 2015

Time: **Monday 11:45~12:40 pm AND Wednesday 10:05-11:00 am** at HH B3

Instructor: Yu-I Hsieh (Yvette)

Email: yvehsieh@rci.rutgers.edu

Office: Scott Hall 335 and mailbox at Scott Hall 330.

Office Hour: Friday 2:00-3:00 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 and Effort (10% or more)
2. Final scroll writing (10%) and weekly assignments (40%)
3. Midterm examination (20%)
4. Final Exam (20%)

Ground Rules:

1. Attendance for every class and throughout the **entire** class period is mandatory. You are allowed to have **three** unexcused absences. **Beyond that, every absence will bring your final grade down by half a letter grade. If you arrive later than 12:00pm on Monday (10:20 am on Wednesday), it will be counted as half-absence.**
2. Attendance does not simply mean showing up. You need to pay full attention to the lecture, classroom discussion, film screening, and your fellow students' presentation. **No electronic equipment (cell phones, laptops, ipods, iPhones, etc.) is allowed during the class meetings. If you are doing other things during the class meeting, like texting or studying for another course, you will be automatically marked as absent.**
3. You are required to turn in your assignments **every Monday** at the very beginning of the class. **Late homework will NOT be accepted.**
4. Do NOT try to "bargain" with the instructor about your grade. This is definitely **not** an easy class that will easily boost up your GPA. Your final grade is partly based on your individual progress in drawing characters; therefore, patience and perseverance is appreciated than a calculating mind. Like every other class you take, your **work**, not your words or complaints, decides your grade.
5. **"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>

6. This is a cultural course taught in English. All the instructions, exams and communications will be conducted in English. **Therefore, you need to use English to communicate with the instructor in class and out of class regarding academic matter. You are required to use Rutgers email in ALL email communications. All the important messages will be posted on Sakai course site directly. Any message posted on Sakai will not be answered in private individual emails.**

Required Books and Materials:

1. Chiang, Yee, *Chinese Calligraphy*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1979. ISBN: 978-0674122260
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).

These materials are **ONLY** available 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 online.**

The store I listed here is the closest place you can get writing materials. Students who are familiar with China Town in NYC can also get the materials there. For instance, World Journal Bookstore in Flushing carries good materials. Make sure you get the right size of brush and right format of writing papers (12-squarebox practice paper and scroll).

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 2 Course introduction and preliminaries

September 7 **No Class—Labor Day (Instead, we will meet on September 8, Tuesday per the adjusted class schedule)**

September 8 & 9 Introduction of writing instruments, brush holding, and techniques—**therefore, everyone should have Chinese brush, paper, and ink available by the class meeting on September 8. If you don't have materials with you on Sep. 8, you will be counted as absent even if you show up.**

September 14&16 Introduction of basic strokes.

September 21&23 Continuing practice of basic strokes (**Read Ch. 1&2 before class**).

September 28 & 30 Individual strokes and practice (**Read Ch. 5 & 6 before class**).

October 5 & 7 **Quiz** + Individual strokes and practice.

October 12 & 14 Finish up all the practice on basic strokes.

October 19 & 21 **Midterm Week**

October 26 & 28 Practice of simple characters

November 2 & 4 Composition and placement. (**Read Ch.7 before class**).

November 9 & 11 Characters drawing

November 16 & 18 Practice with classical work and scroll writing

November 23 Scroll Writing

November 25 **No Class** per the Adjusted Schedule of Thanksgiving Week

November 30 & December 2 Scroll Writing/Final Scroll Writing

December 7 **In-Class Final Scroll Writing**

December 9 Review for Final Exam