Chinese Calligraphy 01:165:111:01 Fall 2012

Time: Tuesday & Wednesday, 11:45~12:40 pm (short period) at HH B3
Instructor: Yu-I Hsieh (Yvette)
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Office: Scott Hall 335
Department Office and mailbox: Scott Hall 330.
Office Hour: Tuesday 1:30~2:30 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, 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.) may be used during the class meetings (unless you are using the laptop for class presentations). If you are doing other things during the class meeting, like text messaging or doing a word puzzle, you will be counted as absent.

3. You are required to turn in your assignments on time. 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 are all serious “criminal” conducts 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 (i.e. plagiarism). Information on this policy can be found at http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/.
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 late March). 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.**

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 Chinatown carries good materials. Make sure you get the right size of brush and right format of writing papers (12-squarebox practice paper and scroll).

The address of World Journal Bookstore in New York City (call first to inquire about the store hours):
377 Broadway, New York, NY 10002    Tel: 212-226-5131

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 4 &5    Course introduction and preliminaries
September 11 &12  Introduction of writing instruments, brush holding, and techniques—**therefore, everyone should have Chinese brush, paper, and ink available by the class meeting on September 11. If you don’t have materials with you on Sep.11, you will be counted as absent even if you show up.**
September 18&19  Introduction of basic strokes.
September 25&26  Continuing practice of basic strokes (**Read Ch. 1&2 before class**).
October 2&3     Individual strokes and practice (**Read Ch. 5 & 6 before class**).
October 9&10    Individual strokes and practice.
October 16&17   Finish up all the practice on basic strokes.
October 23 &24  Midterm Week
November 30&31  Practice of simple characters
November 6 &7   Composition and placement. (**Read Ch.7 before class**).
November 13&14  Characters drawing
November 20 & 21—**No Class due to the adjusted schedule of Thanksgiving break**
November 27 &28  Practice with classical work and scroll writing
December 4&5    In-class scroll writing. **Final scroll due**
December 11 &12 Final Scroll /Review
**Final Exam: TBA**