Chinese Calligraphy 01:165:111:01  Spring 2012

Meeting Time: **Tuesday & Wednesday**, 11:45am-12:40pm at HH-B4
Instructor: Guangda Yang
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Office: Scott Hall 335
Department Office and mailbox: Scott Hall 330.
Office Hour: Tuesday 1:00-2:00pm **AND** by appt.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is an introduction to the principles, techniques, and the 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 aesthetic of Chinese calligraphy and its role in Chinese culture.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and Effort (15%)
   ** Only students who attend every single class on time and are committed to in-class practice rigorously receive a full point of 15 or more. In addition to the penalty stated on the ground rules #1, students who are constantly late to class or have excessive absences (more than 3) will not receive a point higher than 10.
2. Final scroll writing (10%) and weekly assignments (35%)
3. Midterm Exam (20%)
4. Final Exam (20%)

Ground Rules:

1. Rigorous discipline is vital to Chinese calligraphy as a serious art form. Therefore, attendance for every class throughout the entire class period is mandatory and prerequisite to students’ success in this course. You are allowed to have no more than three absences. **Beyond that, every absence will bring your final grade down by half a letter grade. If you arrive later than 12:10pm, it will be counted as half-absence.** I will take attendance in every single class meeting. Besides, habitual lateness for class is not allowed. Habitual latecomers will see their final grades deduced significantly.

   Please beware that your reports through the University Self-reporting Absence Application system **DO NOT** excuse your absence. The system will only be used as a reference in this course. The instructor will take attendance in each single class and faithfully refer to his own record as a basis for final grades.

2. Attendance does not simply mean showing up. You need to pay full attention to the demonstration and concentrate on practice. **No electronic equipment (cell phone, laptop, iPad, Kindle) is allowed during the class meetings. If you are doing anything that distracts you from the class purpose, such as text messaging or 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.** If you are going to miss a class, YOU, not the instructor, are obliged to inquire about the weekly assignment and turn it in on time.

4. Do **NOT** try to “bargain” with the instructor about your grade. This is definitely **NOT** an easy class that would easily boost up your GPA. Your final grade is based on partly your individual progress in drawing characters; therefore, patience and perseverance is appreciated than the calculating mind. Like every other class you take,
Your work, not your words and complaints, will decide your grade.

5. Your improvement in the quality of work will partially determine your grade. Thus, it is important that you are paying full attention to my feedback to your assignments. Repeated/careless mistake in one single issue will bring down your grade significantly.

6. “Tracing” the handouts or the instructor’s writing, asking someone else to do the homework for you, and any misconduct during exams are all seriously against academic integrity. You are required to emulate the writing, not “copy” the handout directly. Anyone who is found to commit such conducts will get F for the course, and the case will be reported to their Dean. For further regulation 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 (12 grid paper), Chinese ink and container (ink stone or soy sauce dish as a substitute), scroll paper.

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 through the Chinese medicine stand located right next to the cashiers. This store is the closest place you can get writing materials. Students who are familiar with Chinatown in NYC can also get the materials there—make sure you get the right size of brush and right format of writing papers thought (12-squarebox practice paper and scroll).

3. Bring newspapers, 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.

January 17  Course introduction and preliminaries
January 24 & 25  Introduction of writing instruments, and basic techniques such as brush holding—therefore, everyone should have Chinese brush, paper, and ink available by the class meeting. If you don’t have materials with you on Jan 24, you’ll be counted as absent even if you show up.
January 31 & February 1  Introduction of basic strokes: I
February 7 & 8  Basic strokes: II (Read Ch. 1&2 before class).
February 14 & 15  Basic strokes: III (Read Ch. 5 & 6 before class).
February 21 &22  Basic strokes: IV.
February 28 &29  Finish up all the practice on basic strokes.
March 6 &7  Midterm Week
March 13 & 14  Spring Break
March 20 & 21  Practice of simple characters
March 27 &28  Composition and placement. (Read Ch.7 before class).
April 3 & 4  Characters drawing: I (Read Ch. 3 & 4 before class).
April 10 & 11 Characters drawing: II
April 17 & 18  Characters drawing: III
April 24 & 25  Practice with classical work and scroll writing
May 1 & 2  In-class scroll writing
May 8 & 9  Final Scroll Due/Review

Final: TBA. The instructor will hand out guidelines a week prior to the exams.