

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** Chinese Symbols and Icons

**Course Number and Section:**

CHINESE

1651F 550

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

This entry-level, essay-type course aims to offer an overview of Chinese culture to students with a general interest in China. The course surveys traditional symbols and icons still prevalent in China's everyday life, ranging from "yin-yang," "dragon" "mandarin ducks" and "the double-happiness," to "the Three Stars" and "Avalokitesvara" (Guanyin). Treating these symbols and icons as image-signifiers, the course illustrates the socio-historical contexts that have shaped major symbolism in China. Thus with symbols and images examined comparatively in various contexts: pre-modern China, modern China, overseas Chinese communities and non-Chinese cultures, the course will demonstrate that symbolism is socially constructed and should not be taken for granted. By this means, the course will not only help students gain a basic understanding of Chinese culture, but will also prepare them in critical thinking skills and cross-cultural perspectives for university studies at a higher level. Taught in English.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. gain a general understanding of Chinese culture;
2. recognize important symbols and icons in Chinese culture;
3. understand the role of symbols and icons in cultural interactions,
4. demonstrate basic critical thinking skills for observing cultural phenomena.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

available on OWL.

### Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Attendance		10%
Participation		10%
Group discussion		5%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
In-class exercise		10%
Midterm exam	10/28/24	20%
Essay	12/02/24	45%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Sunday, August 18, 2024