

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Chinese Symbols and Icons

Course Number and Section

CHINESE

1651F - 550

Instructor Name(s): Guoyuan Liu

Instructor Email(s): gliu23@uwo.ca

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. recognize important symbols and icons in Chinese culture;
2. understand the role of symbols and icons in cultural interactions;
3. 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	Ongoing	10%
Participation /Discussion	Ongoing	15%
Midterm exam part 1 in (in-class)	10/17/2023	20%
Midterm exam part 2 in (take-home)	10/17/2023	10%
Long written assignment	12/07/2023	45%

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