

CHN 2247F 550 - HUC

Chinese Cities and Chinese Culture

Summer Intersession 2022 (May 16 -June 3, 2022)

Class Time: Monday-Thursday 9:30-12:30, delivered online

Instructor: Dr. Guoyuan Liu

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Course prerequisite: NONE

Course description:

The city is never just a physical fact, an economic organization, or a social institution; it is also a form of expression, or in Lewis Mumford's words, "an aesthetic symbol of collective unity": "The city fosters art and is art; the city creates the theater and is the theater." Throughout history, the city as "an aesthetic symbol" has played a significant role in the making of China's cultural identity, since *zhongguo*, the term now used in reference to "China" as a state, first appeared in a record of city building dating back to the 11th century BCE. This course will explore the city's form and function as "an aesthetic symbol" in Chinese culture, through case studies of ten major Chinese cities, five ancient and five modern. Discussion of each city will focus on a selected cultural icon, which particularly represents a theme of city life. Course materials will include historical documents, personal accounts, poetry, fictional narratives, as well as fine art, photography, and films. This course is taught online.

Course objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to

1. have an overview of the cultural significance of Chinese cities;
2. gain a more in-depth understanding of Chinese culture;
3. become critical on taken-for-granted notions such as "city," "nation," "space," etc;
4. develop interdisciplinary skills for analyzing cultural phenomena.

Textbooks and required resources: available on WebCT.

Class Methods: Lectures delivered on Zoom; learning activities and quizzes on OWL;

Method of evaluation and assessment:

Attendance	10%
Participation	10%
Online quizzes	15%
Midterm exam	20%
Essay	45%

Schedule of classes:

阅读: Lewis Mumford: "What Is a City?"

Mon May 16 王城 Luoyang—the city in the cosmic order

阅读: 《何尊铭文》

《史记·周本纪》(节选);

《考工记·匠人》(节选);

Lewis Mumford: "What Is a City?"

图像: 王城图

Tue May 17 长安 Changan—the city as a space of power

阅读: 白行简《李娃传》

图像: 唐长安图

Wed May 18 汴梁 Bianliang—the imperial city as a living space

阅读: 《闹樊楼多情周胜仙》

图像: 清明上河图

Thu May 19 杭州 Hangzhou—the city as a gendered space

阅读: 《计押番金鳧产祸》

参考: 《白娘子永镇雷锋塔》

Mon May 23 Victoria Day

No class meeting

Tue May 24 南京 Nanjing—the city as a theatrical space

阅读: 孔尚任《桃花扇·先声》

图像: 《南都繁会景物图》

Wed May 25 期中考试 The Midterm Exam

请查看 OWL 网站相关页面

Thu May 26 上海 Shanghai—modernization in urban cultural industry

阅读与图像: 郭建英作品选

建筑: 上海汇丰银行; 百乐门舞厅; 石库门民居

Mon May 30 北京 Beijing—metamorphoses of the city space

阅读: 梁思成: 《北京—都市计划的无比杰作》

图像: 北京城市空间的变迁

影像: 第二十九届夏季奥林匹克运动会开幕式

Tue May 31 唐山 Tangshan—disaster and the city identity

电影: 冯小刚导演《唐山大地震》

建筑: 唐山地震遗址公园纪念墙

Wed June 1 二十四城 24 City—the “unit”-based Chinese urban space

电影: 贾樟柯导演《二十四城记》

Thu June 2 香港 Hong Kong—the city of identity anxiety

阅读: 西西《浮城志异》

图像: René Magritte 画作

建筑: 香港文化中心

OWL

Students must consult OWL for this course regularly. All course materials and announcements will be conveyed by this and no other means.

Course work:

Please be reminded that your final grade reflects your performance in this course. As the term begins, your grade is zero and will increase with the accumulation of your course work. Please read the following descriptions carefully and decide how to earn your grade.

Attendance (10%)

Attendance is calculated by hours attended the online lectures divided by total lecture hours. Attendance means your presence in the lecture, not just signing in zoom meeting. If you fail to respond when spoken to, it would be considered a sign of absence. It is suggested that you let yourself be seen or heard during the lectures.

Participation / Discussion (10%)

The participation/discussion grade reflects your level of engagement in class, the quality of your comments and your contribution to class discussion. When you participate in class discussion, you should not only demonstrate your familiarity with the subject discussed, but also your critical consideration of it. Being prepared before coming to class is a major way to improve your participation. You are encouraged to ask questions. Good questions make great contribution to class discussion.

Please see the rubrics for assessing participation on the course website.

Online quizzes (15%)

Online quizzes will be posted on the subpage of the relevant unit in “Lessons.” Each quiz must be finished before the indicated deadline. After the deadline the quiz will be closed and **There will be no make-up for missed online quizzes.**

Midterm Exam (20%)

The midterm exam is an online, open-book exam, which tests your skills and abilities to analyze cultural phenomena in Chinese cities. To do well in this test you need to

- 1) study the assigned readings carefully;
- 2) be attentive and **take notes** in the lectures;
- 3) practice analytic skills introduced in the lectures;

4) review your notes before the test.

You can find the instructions and rubrics on the subpage for the exam in Lessons on OWL.

Essay (45%)

The essay of this course is a **university essay**. In a university essay, you are expected to present an **argument**. That is, you are expected to state an **opinion** about a theme or a literary text and support your opinion with sound reasoning and sufficient evidence. It is assumed that you already understand the basic concepts of a university essay. If you are not familiar with the requirements for the essay structure, the thesis statement, etc., you might find the links for writing assistance helpful.

You can find the instructions and rubrics on the subpage for the essay in Lessons on OWL.

Plagiarism and any other misconduct will not be tolerated.