

CHN 2602B – HUC
Cultural Foundations of Modern China
Summer Intersession 2022 (June 6-23, 2022)

Class Time: Monday-Thursday 9:30-12:30, delivered online
Instructor: Dr. Guoyuan Liu **Email address:** gliu23@uwo.ca

Course prerequisite: NONE

Course description:

China has a long history. Even in the 21st century, the lifestyle, behavior and mentality of the Chinese people are guided, explicitly or implicitly, by a cultural heritage. It is impossible to understand China without knowledge of this heritage. This course offers an overview of key elements that have shaped and reshaped the cultural landscape of today's China. We will examine history, philosophy, literature, and art, with special attention to ideological implications of these cultural activities. Readings in this course include selections from classics representing the most influential ideas and values in Chinese society, as well as literary texts that reflect the most popular ideas. We will also view important Chinese paintings, sculpture and architecture, and listen to important works of Chinese music Taught in English.

Course objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to

1. gain an overview of China's cultural landscape;
2. develop a basic understanding of issues and themes that have shaped modern Chinese culture;
3. acquire skills of analysis and interpretation in Chinese studies through textual as well as visual sources.

Textbooks and required resources:

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley, ed. *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*. Second Edition. New York: The Free Press, 1993.(ISBN-10: 002908752X)

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

Method of evaluation and assessment:

Attendance	10%
Participation	10%
Online quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	50%

Schedule of classes:

Mon June 6 Introduction: Chinese culture and Chinese society

No reading

Tue June 7 Confucianism and the Chinese notion of morality

Reading: Selections from *Confucius's Analects*, the *Book of Mencius*, the *Book of Xunzi*

Wed June 8 Daoism and the Chinese notion of happiness

Reading: Selections from *the Book of Laozi* and the *Book of Zhuangzi*

Thu June 9 The centralized empire and the unified identity

Readings: Selections from the *Book of Hanfeizi*

Selections from the Qin Law

Selections from *Luxuriant Dew of the Spring and Autumn Annals*

Mon June 13 How Buddhism shaped Chinese culture

Reading: Wei Shou's Summary of Buddhism"

"Life of Seng Du"

The Heart Sutra (available on OWL)

Selections from *Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch* (available on OWL)

Images: The Dazu Rock Carvings

Tue June 14 Fusion and development in the middle imperial age.

Readings: "The Dancing Horse of Xuanzong's Court"

Selected Tang poetry (available on OWL)

Wed June 15 Online midterm Exam (20%)

Please see instructions in "Lessons" on OWL

Thu June 16 The taste of the Gentry Class (and why it's important today)

"The Examination System"

"A Schedule for Learning"

Zhu Xi's *Conversations with His Disciples*

Mon June 20 Understanding Chinese architecture

Reading: "The Scholar's Garden"

Images on OWL

Tue June 21 Visual Arts and Music of Imperial China

Readings: "A Scholar-Painter's Diary"

Texts, images and music on OWL

Wed Jun 22 Popular Culture of the Late Imperial Age

Readings: Selections from *Outlaws of the Marsh*

Thu June 23 Conflicts and development of modern Chinese culture

Readings: "My Old Home"

"Is Chinese culture modern?" from Rana Mitter: *Modern China: A Very Short*

Introduction pp 117-130

Texts, images and music on OWL

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 decided 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 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 (10%)

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 Chinese cultural phenomena. 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.

Final Exam (50%)

The final exam is an online, open-book exam. You can find the instructions and rubrics on the subpage for the exam in Lessons on OWL.

Plagiarism and any other misconduct will not be tolerated.