



# The Beijing Center

北京中国学中心

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## TBC 1410 Chinese Art and Culture

*Please Note: This is a sample syllabus, and the course schedule is subject to change. Students will receive the updated syllabus prior to the start of first class.*

### Course Description:

Chinese painting, calligraphy and seal distinguish themselves from other cultures' arts by emphasis on motion and change with dynamic life. The practice is traditionally first learned by rote, in which the master shows the "right way" to draw items. The apprentice must copy these items strictly and continuously until the movements become instinctive. In contemporary times, debate emerged on the limits of this copyist tradition within modern art scenes where innovation is the rule. Changing lifestyles, tools, and colors are also influencing new waves of masters. On our Chinese art class, we are going to learn and practice Chinese painting, calligraphy, seal cutting with traditional skills, also, we would like to encourage students to combine traditional skills and innovation thoughts together.

### Course Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course (i.e. by *passing* this course), you will be able to

1. Understand the philosophy of Chinese art.
2. Use basic skills of Chinese calligraphy to create artwork.
3. Use basic skills of Chinese painting to draw.
4. Use basic skills of seal cutting and create a piece of stone seal print.
5. Demonstrate understanding of traditional Chinese artist/masterpiece by short presentation.
6. Exhibit the artworks at the end of year.

### Instruction Methods

The course requires students to complete reading the assigned materials and bring to class their own questions or comments about the readings. It also requires students to actively engage in in-class interactions in the general context of their course reading as well as lecture-listening and project making.

Each session will begin with a lecture by the instructor, which takes about 1/3 of the session time. Then the course will focus on the skills, instructor will show students the details of brush/knife use, and teach hand by hand as the traditional way, then students will have their own time to practice and create artworks.

### Course Requirements

### 1. Course readings

Required textbook:

- <Art in China (Oxford History of Art)> Second Edition by Craig Clunas
- <Chinese Art (World of Art)> by Mary Tregear

Supplemental readings:

- <Chinese art> by Judith and Arthur hart burling
- <Chinese art & culture> by Robert L thorp
- <Black tigers> by Kenneth Starr
- <Silent poetry>
- <Thousand years of Chinese painting> by Richard M.Barnbart

### 2. Assignments & Exams

The presentation should be over 500 words along with pictures and should be finished before the midterm exam.

Students need to exhibit at least 10 quality artworks including calligraphy, painting and seals before the final week.

### 3. Attendance Policy

Only medical documents or family emergencies can be excused from attending class. Students with three or more unexcused absences shall be excluded from the class, and that will lead to a failing grade for the course.

Please refer to the TBC Academic Packet for any general, academic-related policies.

Action	Result
One class missed	No effect on grade
Two classes missed	10% lower overall grade; 10 points deducted from total grade
Three or more classes missed	20% lower overall grade; 20 points deducted from total grade

### 4. Grading

- (a) Attendance (20%)
- (b) Project and reading/research (30%)
- (c) Presentation (20%)
- (c) Final artworks (30%)

### 5. Cell Phones and Laptops

Laptops, cell phones, and recording devices are all accepted.

## Course Schedule

Week	Topics	Remarks
1	Course introduction.	Review of syllabus and course materials.
2	A general introduction of calligraphy and history	5 scripts
3	A general introduction of Chinese painting	Landscape, figure, flowers and birds

<b>4</b>	A general introduction of seal cutting	White & red characters
<b>5</b>	Chinese calligraphy skill 1	Seal script
<b>6</b>	Chinese calligraphy skill 2	Clerical script
<b>7</b>	Midterm	Presentation
<b>8</b>	Chinese painting skill 1	Flowers and birds
<b>9</b>	Chinese painting skill 2	Landscape
<b>10</b>	Chinese painting skill 3	Painting & poetry
<b>11</b>	Seal cutting skill 1	White characters
<b>12</b>	Seal cutting skill 2	Red characters
<b>13</b>	Final art work	At least 3 pieces of art work