

CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY (373.303)
Fall, 2009

Time: Friday 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Instructor: Becky Hsieh E-Mail: beckyhsieh@jhu.edu
Office Hours: W. & F. 10:00 am – 11:00 am (or by appointment)
Office: Krieger 169 Tel. 410-516-7924

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the Chinese calligraphy, the art of brush writing. Lectures on the history, basic scripts, styles, techniques of Chinese calligraphy and well known masters will be given. It is also a hands-on course for learning brush writing. The emphasis is, therefore, on the techniques, methods and practice of brush writing. Students are expected to hand in homework of at least five sheets of brush writing a week. The words chosen for practice are selected to match the cultural contents of the lessons. An oral presentation and two essays on topics related to calligraphy and cultural content of the lessons are required. A final project of a finished calligraphy piece is expected to complete the course.

At the end of the semester, upon completing of all the requirements, students should have a well rounded and essential knowledge of the history and theory of Chinese calligraphy and will also be able to write decent brush works (Chinese characters).

EVALUATION

Attendance is important for this class. More than two absences will result in the lowering of one level in the final grade.

Homework & Improvement	40% of the final grade
Essays	20% of the final grade
Presentation	15% of the final grade
Final Project	25% of the final grade

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Spring, 2009

BOOKS ON CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY USED IN THIS COURSE ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY:

- Eight hundred characters in the standard script for beginning Chinese brush writing by Dr. Tsung Chin, 2001
- East Asian calligraphy education, edited by Wendan Li & Tsung Chin. 2004
- Chiang Yee, Chinese calligraphy, an introduction to its aesthetic and technique, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1973.
- Kwo Da-Wei, Chinese brushwork in calligraphy and painting: its history, aesthetics and techniques, New York Dover, 1990.
- Michael Sullivan, The three perfections: Chinese painting, poetry and calligraphy, New York, George Braziller, 1999.
- Rebecca Yue, Chinese calligraphy made easy: a structured course in creating beautiful brush lettering, New York: Watson-Guptill, 2005.
- Richard Curt Kraus, Brushes with Power: modern politics and the Chinese art of calligraphy. Berkeley: University of California Press, c1991
- Tseng Yuho, A History of Chinese calligraphy, Chinese University Press, 1993.
- Peter Charles Sturman, Mi Fu: style and the art of calligraphy in Northern Song China, New Haven (Conn.): Yale University Press, c1997.
- Han Jia Ao, Rebecca Hsieh & Richard Hsieh. Chinese Calligraphy: Window to Chinese Culture (in Chinese). Beijing, China: Xian Dai Publishing. 2007.
- Han Jia Ao, Rebecca Hsieh & Richard Hsieh. Chinese Calligraphy (English/Chinese). Beijing, China: Peking University Press. 2008

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- 9/4** Introduction & the Four Treasures, Presentation sign-up
- 9/11** Techniques & Training Procedure (1), Presentation
“Yong” character, eight basic strokes
(Homework: 5 pages of brush writing)
- 9/18** Techniques & Training Procedure (2), Presentation
“Yong” character, eight basic strokes
(Homework: 5 pages of brush writing)
- 9/25** Techniques & Training Procedure (3), Presentation
“Yong” character, eight basic strokes
(Homework: 5 pages of brush writing) **Dynasty chart due**
- 10/2** Structure & Layout, Presentation
(Homework: 5 pages of brush writing)
- 10/9** Major Schools of Kai Script, Presentation
(Homework: 5 pages of brush writing)
- 10/16** Numbers & Dates, Presentation
(Homework: 5 pages of brush writing) **First essay due**

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10/23 Sixty Year Cycle & Animal Signs, Presentation

(Homework: 5 pages of brush writing)

10/30 The Writing Forms, Presentation

(Homework: 5 pages of brush writing)

11/6 Chinese Poetry, Running Script, Presentation

(Homework: 5 pages of running script practice)

11/13 Philosophy & Religion, Presentation

(Homework: practice & prepare for the final project)

11/20 Customs & Festivals, Presentation

(Homework: practice for the final project)

11/27 ***** Thanksgiving Holidays*****

Have Fun!!!!

12/4 Chinese Calligraphy Final Project Exhibition

Final Essay Due