



Australia's
Global
University



ARTS2464

CHINESE IDEAS OF BEAUTY AND EROTICA

ARTS2464

Chinese Ideas of Beauty and Erotica: Ancient to Modern

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Ping Wang	p.wang@unsw.edu.au	Monday 2-3pm	MB236	93853451

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Chinese Studies*

This course can also be studied in the following specialisations: *Asian Studies, Women's and Gender Studies*

This course is designed to explore the experiences and representations of beauty in Chinese culture. We will examine the intersections where philosophical ideas (Daoism, Buddhism as well as Confucianism) and literary conventions influence Chinese concepts of beauty, including China's long history of erotica, as reflected in both written and visual texts. We will examine different spheres of beauty in Chinese culture, including the human body, family life, society and nature. We will consider questions such as: What underpins the notion of beauty in pre-modern China? Who/What are considered beautiful, and why? Have aesthetic values changed over time? How? What accounts for the rich repertoire of poetic/artistic images and motifs that tap into thousand of years of Chinese history? What is the desired balance between *yin & yang*, and between feminine beauty and masculine attractiveness? Such questions and more will be investigated in the light of Chinese cosmos and aesthetics. We will critically analyze and appreciate both written and visual texts as cultural artifacts and symbolic expressions of aesthetic values.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Articulate a specific body of knowledge about core aspects of Chinese ideas of beauty and erotica.
2. Analyze and critique primary and secondary sources concerning Chinese literature and art.
3. Formulate and defend interpretations and appreciation for both the written and visual texts as a cultural artifact and symbolic expression of aesthetic values.
4. Synthesize theories and approaches to Chinese aesthetics in current academic discourse.
5. Identify core differences between Chinese and Western concepts of beauty and erotica in cross-cultural contexts.

Teaching Strategies

Is beauty a virtue, power or something else? What constitutes beauty? What underpins the notion of beauty and erotica in pre-modern China? What is the desired balance between *yin & yang*, and between feminine beauty & masculine attractiveness? This course is designed to encourage you to embark on a journey to search for answers while exploring and enjoying the beauty of Chinese literature and art. The course is divided into a few themes: nature/earth and body, philosophy, literature and art. The lectures introduce key theories and debate surrounding Chinese ideas of beauty and aesthetics as operating in current academic discourse. The tutorials are devoted to in-depth discussion of the course readings and related materials. Interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives and multi-media approach are adopted to enhance your learning experiences.

It is my teaching strategy to develop your critical thinking and analytical skills. You are encouraged to engage with complex issues in Chinese aesthetics, and apply relevant theories to your own analysis and appraisal of both the written and visual texts as a cultural artifact and symbolic expression of aesthetic values. All the assessments are aligned with course learning outcomes. The 2 critical reviews

encourage and assess your engagement with the course content, in particular the weekly readings. The group research project gives you an opportunity to showcase your critical thinking and research skills as well as teamwork. The engagement of the course content is further encouraged and assessed by an end-of-term test. Class discussions are set to encourage and maintain your engagement, interest and enthusiasm in the course.

Assessment

Other relevant information will be provided on the course moodle.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Final Test	20%	Week 10	1,2,3,4,5
Critical reviews	40%	Various	2,3,5
Group Research Project	40%	Week 9	1,3,4,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Final Test

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Students complete a test (1.5 hours), including short and essay-type questions. Student receive a mark, and can consult the lecturer for further feedback. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

Additional details:

Additional information about this and other assessments will be provided on the Course Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Critical reviews

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Students write 2 critical reviews (2x20%) of 2000 - 2500 words each on the course reading materials. Feedback via individual comments, rubric, and in-class discussion.

Additional details:

Critical Review 1 is to be submitted on Turnitin, while Critical Review 2 is to be done in class.

Detailed information about these two assignments will be provided on the Course Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Group Research Project

Start date: Week 7

Details: Students do a group presentation (25%) as well as submitting a group research paper (15%). Students will be assessed individually for the presentation (3-5 minutes per person), but each group will receive one mark for the research paper (3000-3500 words per paper). Feedback via individual comments, rubric, and in-class discussion.

Additional details:

The group research papers are to be submitted on Turnitin.

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the Course Moodle.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 18 February - 24 February	Topic	Introduction
	Lecture	Introduction: What is "beautiful"?
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week, including the lecture and reading material
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	Topic	Aesthetics & Chinese Ideas of Beauty and Erotica
	Lecture	Overview on Aesthetics & Chinese Ideas of Beauty and Erotica
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week, including the lecture and reading material
Week 3: 4 March - 10 March	Topic	Beauty of Earth and Nature & Beauty of bodies and people
	Lecture	Introduction to Beauty of Earth and Man
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week, including the lecture and reading material
Week 4: 11 March - 17 March	Topic	Early Reflections on Beauty 1: Confucian Perspective
	Lecture	Early Reflections on Beauty: Confucian Aesthetics
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week, including the lecture and reading material
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Topic	Early Reflections on Beauty 2: Daoist and Buddhist Perspectives
	Lecture	Early Reflections on Beauty: Daoist and Buddhist Aesthetics

	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week, including the lecture and reading material
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Topic	Reading Week
	Lecture	No Lecture
	Tutorial	No Tutorial
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Topic	The Beauty of Chinese Literature and Art 1
	Lecture	The Beauty of Chinese Poetry
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week, including the lecture and reading material Group Presentations
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Topic	The Beauty of Chinese Literature and Art 2
	Lecture	Beauty of Chinese Painting and Architecture
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week, including the lecture and reading material Group Presentations
Week 9: 15 April - 21 April	Topic	The Beauty of Chinese Music, cinema & Fashion
	Lecture	The Beauty of Chinese Music, Cinema & Fashion Critical Review 2 (in class)
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week, including the lecture and reading material Group Presentations
Week 10: 22 April - 28 April	Topic	Revision & Test
	Lecture	Revision & Test
	Tutorial	Feedback

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All the expected reading material will be provided on the Course Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Recommended resources will also be provided on the Course Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

This course will be formally evaluated through MyExperience, as well as informally during the whole teaching process. Any issues raised in students' feedback will be addressed, and strategies to further enhance students' learning experience will be discussed in class.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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