



ARTS2464

CHINESE IDEAS OF BEAUTY AND EROTICA

ARTS2464

Chinese Ideas of Beauty and Erotica: Ancient to Modern

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
A/Prof. Ping Wang	p.wang@unsw.edu.au	by Appointment	MB236	93853451

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

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.

The teaching strategies for the course aim to, among other things, 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 Research Essay gives you an opportunity to showcase your critical thinking and research skills. The Group Project (Presentation and Discussion) encourages and assesses your engagement with the course content, in particular the weekly reading, as well as your communicative skills and teamwork. The engagement with course content is further assessed by the end-of-term Test.

Throughout the course, class discussion is encouraged to maintain your interest and enthusiasm in the course.

Assessment

All details of relevant information of course assessment will be provided on the Course Moodle as well as in class.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research Essay	40%	10/04/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Presentation and Discussion	40%	Various	1, 2, 3, 5
Final Exam	20%	23/04/2021 01:00 PM	2, 3, 5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research Essay

Details:

Students each write a research essay (3000-3500 words) on their selected topic to be submitted on-line.

Feedback via rubric as well as individual and in-class comments

Additional details:

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the Course Moodle as well as in class.

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

Assessment 2: Presentation and Discussion

Details:

Each group of students choose two articles from the course reading material, and present their summaries and analysis / reflections (approx. 5 minutes per person) in tutorials (30%). Feedback via rubric and in-class comments.

Participation in weekly class discussions will also be taken into consideration (10%)

Students will receive an individual mark for both presentation and discussion.

Additional details:

The group presentations (30%) will be based on the teaching schedule, so the presentation time for each group may vary (Week 5 through to Week 9), depending on the reading materials each group chooses.

The other 10% (on individual basis) goes to weekly class discussions,

Assessment 3: Final Exam

Details:

An in-class test consisting of two types of questions that require either short answers or some analysis (1.5 hours).

Feedback upon request.

Additional details:

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the Course Moodle as well as in class well in advance.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of Lectures/Tutorials is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than 20% of Lectures/Tutorials (combined) will result in the award a fail grade. In Lecture/Tutorials you will actively engage with core course content, enabling you to attain CLOs 1-5.

Short on-line quizzes will also serve as attendance record,

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Topic	Introduction
	Lecture	Introduction: What is "beautiful"?
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week and the course reading material
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	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 and the course reading material
Week 3: 1 March - 5 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 and the course reading material
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Topic	Early Reflections on Beauty 1: Confucian Perspective
	Lecture	Early Reflections on Beauty: Confucian Aesthetics
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week and and the course reading material
Week 5: 15 March - 19 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 and the course reading material Group presentation starts
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Topic	Flexibility Week, No Lecture; No Tutorial.
	Lecture	No Lecture
	Tutorial	No Tutorial
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Topic	The Beauty of Chinese Literature and Art 1
	Lecture	The Beauty of Chinese Poetry & Painting
	Tutorial	Good Friday; No Tutorial. Topics for discussion about the reading for this week will be put on the course Moodle.
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Topic	The Beauty of Chinese Literature and Art 2
	Lecture	Beauty of Chinese Music, Architecture & Fashion
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topics surrounding the reading materials of this week, and Week 7 as well. Group presentation completes
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Topic	Chinese Ideas of Beauty in Modern era
	Lecture	New development and Changes in the ideas of beauty in Modern China.
	Tutorial	Discussion of the topic of the week and the course reading material Group Presentation ends
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Topic	Revision, Feedback & Test
	Lecture	Revision & Feedback
	Tutorial	Final Test

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

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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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.