

ARH 3552/ARH 6918: Early Chinese Art and Archaeology (5000 BCE-907 CE)
University of Florida, Fall 2016, Section 04BD/07B5

Meeting Time: Monday 3-4 (9:35-11:30 am), Wednesday 3 (9:35-10:25 am)

Classroom: FAC 201

Prof. Guolong Lai (Email: glai@arts.ufl.edu)

Office: FAC 125; Tel: (352) 273-3072

Office Hours: Wednesday 4 (10:40-11:30 am), and by appointment

Description:

This course covers the art and material culture from the beginning of civilization in China to the Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE). While centered upon the visual arts, the course considers palaces and tombs, religious art, and the rise of new media and technologies during that span of Chinese history. It incorporates archaeological discoveries of the last five decades, which have fundamentally transformed our understanding of Chinese history and cultures. The important themes in this course include the origins of civilizations in China, the origins and early development of pictorial art, and the introduction and transformation of Buddhist art in ancient China. Coursework will consist mainly of writing assignments, in-class discussions and presentations, and research papers.

Objectives:

This course will introduce students to the rich artistic traditions in early and medieval China, and provide them with a solid grounding in Chinese art history so that students can reach a better understanding of the cultural history of ancient China. The emphasis will lie in student's ability to grasp basic concepts, to discuss both iconographic and stylistic developments in Chinese art, and to analyze critically visual culture of ancient China.

Requirements and Grading (consult the instructor for both the book review and the final research topic):

1. Class participation (30%) – Students should be aware that some of the material covered in lecture is not available from the textbook. It is, therefore, essential and highly advised to attend all class meetings. Two tardy counts as one absence; the perfect attendance will be rewarded with a bonus point.

2. Reading reports and discussions (10%) – Students are responsible to complete each weekly reading assignment and hand in a reading report after discussion; altogether 10 reading reports. Students must be prepared to answer questions related to the reading assignment and lead the class discussion when assigned.

3. Midterm book review and presentation (8-10 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman; 12 point, 30%): You are asked to review an academic book of your choice (must be related to this course; consult the instructor for your choice).

4. Final research paper (10-15 pages, 30%); on the topic of the origins and early development of pictorial art in comparative perspective (consult the instructor for your research topic).

For graduate students: a longer final paper (15-20 page), or to do an appropriate final project (to be decided in consultation with the instructor). Graduate students may assign additional readings and other assignments.

Grading Scale

Grades are tabulated on a 100-point scale and a letter grade is assigned as follows:

93–100 A	90–92 A-	87–89 B+	83–86 B	80–82 B-	77–79 C+
73–76 C	70–72 C-	67–69 D+	63–66 C	60–62 D-	59 & below E

Please note that a grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements.

For more information, see

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

*Students are expected to participate in class discussions and turn in assignments on time.

*All papers should be printed, standard, and double-spaced; no assignments or papers will be accepted over email.

*Student's class participation is evaluated not according to the amount of talking that student does, but rather according to whether that student contributes thoughtfully and constructively, based on a careful consideration of the class reading assignments.

Other Important Information:

Make-Up Exams, extensions, and incomplete grade will be given ONLY in cases of emergencies or serious illnesses with proper documentation. In all other cases (Family obligations, religious holidays, disabilities etc.), extensions may be granted only if informed well BEFORE the deadline.

No cellular phone or laptop web-surfing during the class.

Disability accommodations can be requested by contacting the Office for Student Services, P202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261 and then bring the instructor the provided documentation.

Academic Honesty: The university's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following links:

- Academic Honesty: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty>
- Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>
- Student Conduct: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

University Counseling Services

Contact information:

Counseling Center

Address:

301 Peabody Hall
P.O. Box 114100, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-4100

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: www.counsel.ufl.edu

Be assured that I want you to learn and to receive the best grades you deserve. So come to see me during my office hour or make an appointment to discuss any difficulty you have encountered in this course.

Reading Reports:

The purpose of the reading reports is to help you think through the article while reading it, and to prepare you for class discussion. The basic structure should be first a summary of the gist (the basic structure) of the article; then your comments, responses, and questions (and prepare the questions in a thoughtful way so that you can discuss and answer them in class). The articles are available on the course reserve website. Altogether 10 reading reports for this semester, covering 10 articles (marked as Discussion #1-#10 on the syllabus). These articles will be the main sources for the essay questions in the mid-term and final exam. Hand in the reading reports after each class discussion (1-2 pages, single spaced is ok).

Required texts:

1. Robert L. Thorp and Richard Ellis Vinograd, *Chinese Art & Culture* (Prentice Hall, Inc. and Harry N. Abrams, Inc. Publishers, 2001; hereafter CAC).
2. Other assigned readings are in the Jstor or the e-learning course website.

Weekly schedule

Week 1 (8/22, 24): Introduction: Neolithic Civilizations and the Origins of Chinese Art; Yangshao Culture, Longshan and related cultures of the east coast; Hongshan Culture; Liangzhu Culture
CAC-Introduction and chapter 1.

Week 2 (8/29, 8/31): Early Bronze Age China: the Erlitou Culture/Early Shang; the Erligang Phase/Middle Shang; the Metropolitan Anyang/Yinxu Phase/Late Shang; the Sanxingdui and related sites in Sichuan
CAC-chapter 2.

Discussion #1: Robert W. Bagley, "Ornament, Representation, and Imaginary Animals in Bronze Age China." *Arts Asiatiques* 61 (2006), 17-29.

Week 3 (9/7): Late Shang writing and religion; the development of the Zhou dynasty; Western Zhou bronzes
CAC-chapter 2.

Discussion #2: Martin Powers, "The figure in the carpet: reflections on the discourse of ornament in Zhou China." *Monumenta Serica* 43 (1995) 211-233.

Week 4 (9/12, 14): Funerary arts of Eastern Zhou period: the tomb of the Marquis of Zeng; the Baoshan tomb; the rise of personal religion.
CAC-chapter 3.

Week 5 (9/19, 21): The northern fringes of the Zhou cultural sphere; The Qin Empire and the Terracotta Army.

CAC-chapter 3.

Discussion #3: Guolong Lai, "Presenting the invisible," Chapter 3, *Excavating the Afterlife: The Archaeology of Early Chinese Religion* (Seattle: The University of Washington Press, 2015).

Week 6 (9/26, 28): Ideas about the afterlife in Western Han tombs: Mawangdui, Mancheng, and Nanyue Kingdom.

CAC-chapter 4.

Discussion #4: Wu Hung, "Art in its Ritual Context: Rethinking Mawangdui," *Early China* 17 (1992), 111-45. (Jstor)

Week 7 (10/3, 5): Eastern Han carved-stone tombs and shrines: the Wu Liang Shrine; the Han capitals and their cosmic dimensions.

CAC-chapter 4.

Discussion #5: Wu Hung, "From Temple to Tomb: Ancient Chinese Art and Religion in Transition." *Early China* 13 (1988): 78-115. (Jstor)

Week 8 (10/10, 12): Early Chinese Painting; the Silk Road and early Buddhist bronze and stone sculpture

CAC-chapter 5.

Week 9 (10/17, 19): The earliest Buddhist cave-temples in China and their Central Asian predecessors; Dunhuang; Yungang; Longmen

CAC-chapter 5, especially 160-172.

Discussion #6: Julia K. Murray. "What is 'Chinese Narrative Illustration'?" *The Art Bulletin* 80.4 (1998), 602-615.

Week 10 (10/24, 26): The Fine Arts under the Six Dynasties: Chinese Ceramics; Chinese calligraphy as an elite art

CAC-chapter 5, especially pp. 172-176;

Discussion #7: John Hay, "The Body Invisible in Chinese Art?" In Angela Zito and Tani E. Barlow eds. *Body, Subject, and Power in China* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994), 42-77.

Week 11 (10/31, 11/2): Chinese painting theories; Chinese figure painting; the origins of landscape painting

CAC-chapter 5, especially pp. 176-182;

Discussion #8: Donald Harper, "The Textual Form of Knowledge: Occult Miscellanies in Ancient and Medieval Chinese Manuscripts, Fourth Century B.C. to Tenth Century A.D." F. Bretelle-Establet, ed., *Looking at It from Asia: The Processes that Shaped the Sources of History of Science*, Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science 265, Springer Science Business Media B.V. 2010, pp. 37-80.

Week 12 (11/7, 9): The Sui and Tang imperial capitals and their influence; Tang Metropolitan Buddhist art: Famensi;

CAC-chapter 6, especially 185-190;

Discussion #9: Alexander C. Soper. "Life-motion and the Sense of Space in Early Chinese Representational Art." *The Art Bulletin* 30.3 (1948), 167-186.

Week 13 (11/14, 16): Buddhist Sculpture and Painting of the Tang Dynasty; Tang International Style.

CAC-chapter 6, especially 195-209;

Discussion #10: Julia K. Murray. "Buddhism and Early Narrative Illustration in China," *Archives of Asian Art* 48 (1995), 17-31.

Week 14 (11/21, 22): Secular Painting and Ceramics of the Tang Dynasty

CAC-chapter 6, especially 209-223.

Week 15 (11/28, 30): Tang tombs and funerary sculpture; Tang Taoist sculpture and architecture. **Student presentations.**

Week 16 (12/5, 7): Student presentations and final paper due.