ARH 4930: Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art  
University of Florida, Fall 2021-Section MCHI  
Time: M Period 4 (10:40-11:30 am) and W Period 3-4 (9:35-11:30 am)  
Room FAC 201  
Prof. Guolong Lai (email: glai@arts.ufl.edu)  
Office: FAC 119; Tel: (352) 273-3072  
Office Hours: M & W Period 5 (after the class, 11:45-12:35 pm) and by appointment

Description:  
This course will explore the ways in which Chinese artists and architects of the 20th and 21st century have defined modernity and their traditions against the complex background of China’s social and political history. A key issue for modern Chinese art is the complicated relationships between traditions and innovations—the degree to which Chinese artists choose to continue the old traditional practice or adopt the new Western techniques and the extent to which they rejected either of them. Basing upon their particular understandings of the Chinese traditions and Western techniques, many artists took these positions amid the social and political upheavals of the modern era. Through examining art works in different media, we will investigate the most compelling of the multiple realities that Chinese artists have constructed for themselves and for the public.

Objectives:  
This course will introduce students to the rich artistic traditions in modern and contemporary 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 modern and contemporary China. The emphasis will lie in student’s ability to grasp key facts, basic concepts and main issues of Chinese art, to understand the historical and artistic context within which these artworks were produced, to discuss both iconographic and stylistic development in Chinese art, and to analyze critically visual culture of modern and contemporary China.

This is a special topic advanced research class. The main goal of the class is to help you write a decent research paper on a topic of your choice.

Requirements and grading:  
**Class attendance** (20%) – 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. Any absence will adversely affect your grade; two tardy counts as one absence; the perfect attendance will be rewarded with a bonus point.  
**Reading reports and class presentations** (20%) – Students are responsible to complete each weekly reading assignment and hand in a reading report after discussion. Each student will sign up for one presentation in class on the topic of the week. Students should be prepared to answer questions related to the reading assignment and lead the class discussion when assigned.  
**Midterm book review** (20%) – 5-10 pages, double-spaced, academic books related to the student’s interests in this class; consult the instructor for suggestions.  
**Final research paper and presentations** (40%) – 10-15 pages, double-spaced, research paper on chosen topic related to the class.
Graduate students are expected to do more work, reading and presentation, writing longer papers in this class. Discuss with the instructor for more details.

**Grading scale:**

*Students are expected to participate in class discussions and turn in assignments on time.
*All papers should be printed; 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 tests**, 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, and then bring the instructor the provided documentation.
**Be aware** that any forms of cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable and will result in a failing grade.
**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 or problem you have encountered in this course.

**Reading Reports:**
The purpose of the reading reports is to help you think through the chapters and articles while reading them, and to prepare you for class discussion. The basic structure should be first a summary of the gist (the basic structure and arguments) 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). Hand in the reading reports after each class discussion (1-2 pages, single spaced is ok).

**Textbook:**

Visit the Harn Museum, meeting the Asian Art curator Dr. Tongyun Yin (TBA)

**Weekly Schedule:**
**Week 1 (8/23, 25):** Introduction and Overview: maps, pinyin, and chronology.
Video: Maya Lin.

**Week 2 (8/30, 9/1):** Chinese Art in the Age of Imperialism: The Opium War to the Treaty of Shimonoseki, 1842-1895.

**Week 3 (9/8):** Art in the Creation of a New Nation: the Overthrow of the Qing and the Early Republic, 1895-1920.

**Week 4 (9/13, 15):** Art in the New Culture of the 1920s.

**Week 5 (9/20, 22):** Modern Art in the 1930s.

**Week 6 (9/27, 29):** The Golden Age of Guohua in the 1930s.

**Week 7 (10/4, 6):** Art in Wartime, 1937-1949.

**Week 8 (10/11, 13):** Western-style Art under Mao, 1949-1966.

**Week 9 (10/18, 20):** Ink Painting, Lianhuanhua, and Woodcuts under Mao, 1949-1966


**Week 11 (11/1, 3):** Art after Mao, 1976-1989.

**Week 12 (11/18, 10):** Alternative Chinas : Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Week 14 (11/22): The New Millennium, and the Chinese Century?


Week 16 (12/6, 8): Student Presentations and Conclusion.