

AI 112 Exploring China: the Language, the Culture, and the Visual and Martial Arts

Course Description:

This is a course of active learning that requires a student to speak basic Chinese, explore the origin of Chinese characters, paint with brushes, and meditate in motion through Tai Chi. It introduces the fundamental structure of Chinese pronunciation and explores methods and techniques for English speakers to memorize the sound of Chinese words. By introducing students to the pictographic nature of Chinese characters, it engages students in a process of learning through visualizing the “image” of Chinese characters. In addition to language and culture exploration, students will be introduced to the Chinese philosophy of Yin Yang balance and applies it through their practice of Tai Chi, an ancient form of Chinese martial art for strengthening and relaxation of both body and mind.

Faculty Biographic Information

Dr. Sharon Guan is the director of the department of Instructional Design and Development (IDD) at DePaul University. In this role, she leads a team of instructional technology consultants to provide consultation services to faculty on the use cognitive theories, instructional design methods, and educational technology to enhance teaching and learning. Using every course as an opportunity to implement innovative instructional strategies and new technologies, Dr. Guan considers herself as a practitioner of effective instructional design in the field of instructional technology, curriculum design, and language instruction. She’s taught Chinese Language and Culture courses for over 10 years as an adjunct faculty at Indiana State University, St. Mary of the Woods College, and DePaul University. Dr. Guan received her undergraduate degree in International Journalism from Beijing Broadcasting Institute and her master’s and Ph.D. degree in Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Technology from Indiana State University.

Competencies

A-1-H: Can explain the function of folk arts in the transmission of culture and values.

H-1-E: Can explain the concept, function, and expression of culture and illustrate the explanation with one or more cultures.

Learning Experiences:

Each class meeting comprises three student-centered activities: 1) language learning and practices; 2) a topic of Chinese Culture or Art; and 3) practice of Tai Chi, a body and mind

exercise. Students are introduced to online resources and technology tools to learn and practice Chinese. They are encouraged to research, share, and discuss online resources pertinent to the topics of the class. The class strives to form a learning community on-site and online so that learning continues beyond the class session.

Measurable Outcomes:

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Pronounce Chinese words using the Chinese phonetic system of “pinyin” and the four signs of tones
- Communicate in Chinese for greeting, introduction, and travel
- Explain the pictographic nature of Chinese characters using at least five examples
- Draw objectives using brushes for Chinese painting
- Analyze the aesthetics and the political meaning presented through Chinese art
- Interpret the work of Chinese artists within the historical and social context of China
- Analyze the difference between Chinese and Western culture
- Explain the philosophy of Yin Yang balance and apply it to the practice of Tai Chi
- Practice 24-form Tai Chi with correct movement and flow of energy or “qi”

Required Textbook

Integrated Chinese, Level 1, Part I (by Yuehua Liu, Tao-chung Yao, Nyan-Ping Bi, Liangyan Ge, Yaohua Shi, published by Cheng & Tsui Company).

Requirement:

Since each lesson covers a variety of topics including Chinese language, culture, and the theory and practice of Chinese Taichi, students are expected to devote time and energy by doing the following:

- attend all class sessions on time
- participate actively in class discussion and online communication exercises
- complete assignment by the due dates

Evaluation:

Taichi Performance Exam	30%
Chinese Language Quizzes	10% x 3 = 30%
Chinese Art Project	20%

Multimedia Project (Lesson 2)*	10%
Class Participation	10%
	100%

Attendance Requirement

Students who missed more than two in-class and/or online meetings without permission from the instructor prior to class meeting time will automatically lose all 10% of the grade