ART 413 (10687): History of Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art

Time and location: Tuesday 4:00-6:45 PM  Sagebrush 103
Instructor: Dr. Meiqin Wang
Office: Sagebrush 227
Office Phone: 677-3027 (no voice message)
Email: mwang@csun.edu
Office hours: TUE 3:30-4pm/6:45-7:45pm; WED 9:00-9:30/12:15-12:45; FRI 9:30-11am

Catalog Description:
Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Chinese visual culture from the Neolithic period to the present time. Investigation of various art forms in different media (including ceramics, bronze object, calligraphy, painting, sculpture, architecture, woodblock print, photograph, video, installation, and performance), and ways in which different artistic features are connected to specific historical, religious, philosophical, and political contexts.

Course description
This course looks at visual arts in modern and contemporary China with a focus on contemporary materials. We will start with discussions on Chinese modernism in the early 20th centuries, the new modern art movement in the 1920s and 1930s, and Mao’s revolutionary art during the Communist Era. We will then explore the avant-garde movements in the post-Mao period since the 1980s and in particular new artistic practices in relation to China’s rapid urbanization since the 2000s.

• Be prepared! Expect to work hard and learn a lot in this course. I have high expectations for my students and am committed to helping you succeed in achieving your learning goals.

Art Department Program Goals Addressed in This Course:
1. Students will acquire competent knowledge and skills in various art media, concepts and methodologies.
4. Students will utilize and apply critical thinking skills to communicate ideas for their intended audience at a competent level in visual, oral, and written formats.
5. Students will acquire historical and contemporary knowledge of diverse cultural and aesthetic contexts, including political, visual and material culture.

Course Student Learning Objectives
1. To acquire a critical and historical consciousness of the development of Chinese art.
2. To understand the role and function of Chinese art within its religious, political, social and economic contexts.
3. To achieve a “visual literacy” of Chinese artistic images.
4. To demonstrate a general knowledge of important art historical terms, methods, and issues as applied to Chinese art.
5. To foster both individual and collective learning and to demonstrate research skills including ability to locate, evaluate, organize, and document sources for written assignments and articulate ideas verbally in class.

Course Assignments
You are expected to assume a high responsibility of learning in this class by completing all the required course assignments and choosing some from the selective course assignments. Plan early and fill in the assignment plan. Keep
in mind that you are responsible for turning in all your assignments by the deadlines.

**Attendance:**
Attendance is mandatory and will be taken every week. Materials presented in class will not be repeated. Missing more than one class will affect your final grade on a 3-points downward scale each subsequent absence. Exception will only be made with an exigent circumstance, but you must provide a three-page essay summarizing the missed course materials plus proper documents. *Every tardy arrival, leaving class early, sleeping in class, or electronic device violation* will cost you 1 point. Laptop and cellphone are not allowed to be used during class, unless certain research activities call for their use.

**Required Course Assignments**

1. **Class participation (30 points)**
   It is imperative that you have studied the assigned readings BEFORE you come to class! The quality, rather than the quantity, of your contributions to the class and group discussion will be used to establish your participation grade.
   
   01. *(Summarizer- You will perform this role twice- 8 points total)* For each time: you will present to the class or your group in 10 minutes; you will also turn in a THREE-page essay summarizing the main content of the weekly readings. Your essay has to show that you have read and understood the weekly material. Being concise and getting the main issues are the key to this assignment.
      
      **Note:** both essays are due on course website before the class begins. See summary rubric online.
   
   02. *(Discussant- You will perform this role twice- 8 points total)* You will lead discussion on weekly questions/topics in a group and report to the class. (You should not be summarizer and discussant on the same day).
   
   03. *(Commentator- 4 points)* You will comment on two classmates’ research paper proposal and annotated bibliography (See Research paper project for details).
   
   04. *(Other participations-10 points)* spontaneous class discussions, online assignments, and surveys.

2. **Research paper project part 1–paper proposal and annotated bibliography (20 points) Due week 9 before the class begins**
You will research on a topic related with modern and contemporary Chinese visual arts and develop it into an art history paper proposal, supported by an annotated bibliography. A minimum of three pages is expected. You are welcome to bring in visual arts produced during the same periods from other countries for a comparative research. Please seek my approval of your topic first by submitting it online before the class begins on week 4. This can be a simple initial proposal, including a title, a paragraph introducing the specific time frame, names of artworks and/or artists, the issues, problems, or phenomena that your research paper will cover.

   • Check Guidelines for Research Paper on course website for complete guidelines and samples of paper proposal and annotated bibliography.

**Selective Course Assignments**

***You have to earn at least 60% of a selective assignment for it to be counted

1. **Mini-lecture presenter (3 points each) Due time varies**
You can sign up for mini-lecture, in which you will teach the rest of the class 3-4 new lecture images from that day’s reading materials. You have to sign up one week in advance in class. You can present up to three times.

   • Check course website for mini-lecture guidelines
2. Exhibition Review (6 points) Due by the end of week 11th
Exhibition review essay requires you to attend an exhibition on Chinese visual art in museums or galleries and write about it. You should apply terms, issues, concepts learned from the course to your exhibition review. The required length is four-pages, plus pages for illustrations and captions. Evidence of attendance is required.
• Check course website for detailed requirements
• Read Sylvan Barnet’s chapter 7 for general guidelines and samples

3. Research paper project part 2–Final Paper (30 points) Due week 16th (required for art history majors)
You must turn in your work on course website in a word/pdf attachment with your last name-first name as the file name. The paper should be 10-12 pages (about 2500 to 3000 words) in length (excluding the cover page and illustrations).
• You are required to present your paper in 6 minutes
• Check the complete Research Paper Guide on course website

4. Online Exam I and Exam II (15 points each) Due by the end of week 7th and week 15th respectively
Both exams are essay questions. There will be several questions and you will be asked to write a two-page essay for each question. Both exams test your understanding of course content and ability to reconstruct historical, political, and artistic significance of Chinese art history. You will have three hours for each exam.
• Check course website for detailed guidelines

5. Gallery Show Project (30 points): Sign-up due by week 5th and complete project Due by the end of week 14th
(Special note: artists or artworks you include in this project should not repeat what you do for the research paper proposal or final paper or other projects. Otherwise you won’t get credit for this project.)
This is a group project involves individual and group effort to create a virtual gallery show of contemporary Chinese art (since the 1980s). You should form your own group (3 to 5 students per group).
• You are required to present your project in 6 minutes
• Check course website for detailed guidelines

6. Creative project: (30 points total) Due by the end of week 14th
(Special note: artists or artworks you include in this project should not repeat what you do for the research paper proposal or final paper or other projects. Otherwise you won’t get credit for this project.)
This project involves a combination of research and artwork, design, or video making.
• You are required to present your project in 6 minutes
• Check course website for the detailed guidelines

Grading Scale:
A = 100-96 points       A- = 95-90 points
B+ = 89-87 points       B = 86-83 points       B- = 82-80 points
C+ = 79-77 points       C = 76-73 points       C- = 72-70 points
D+ = 69-67 points       D = 66-64 points       D- = 63-60 points       F = below 60 points

NO late assignments will be accepted! This applies to every member in the class. The instructor welcomes personal consultation on how to plan and complete an assignment on time, but she will not discuss the matter after the deadline.

Submission method of your written works: all assignments are due online unless also required in hard copy.
Format for all written works

- Only WORD or PDF will be accepted, if not particularly required by PowerPoint (PPT).
- When cite, please use footnote following the Chicago Manual of Style.
- Please use your last name, then first name, and then the assignment itself as the title of your file. For example: Wang-Meiqin-week 5 summary.doc or Sylvan-Barnet-paper proposal.doc
- All written submissions must have page numbers and should have a cover page containing the title of your paper, your name, course number, course title, professor’s name, and date.
- Use Times Roman 12 point, double-spaced. Page margins should measure 1” on all sides.

All written works will be graded on content, organization, logic, grammar, spelling, as well as format for citation and bibliography when applicable. The Writing Center in SB40g (7-2033) is there to help with your writing if English is not your first language. Please contact them in advance to plan for getting help.

Texts:

1. Wang, Meiqin. *Urbanization and Contemporary Chinese Art*. New York: Routledge 2015. (Required, a copy is available at the library reserve room on the fourth floor)
2. Sullivan, Michael. *Art and Artists of Twentieth-Century China*. Berkeley: University of California, 1996. (Recommended, required chapters will be available online)
3. Wang, Meiqin. *Socially Engaged Art in Contemporary China*. New York: Routledge 2019. (Recommended, a copy is available at the library reserve room on the fourth floor)
5. Additional readings are to be downloaded from course website.

Academic Integrity and Performance:

CSUN expects its students and employees to conduct themselves in an honest and professional manner. Disrespectful activities such as inappropriate comments, texting, emailing, Internet surfing or talking will result in a lower grade. Please turn off all cell phones during class. Your offence of any type listed above will be counted against your final grade.

- If a student is caught cheating in any form, he/she will receive a failing grade for the course and be reported to the University for appropriate disciplinary action.
- Plagiarism (copying others’ ideas and/or words in your work without clearly acknowledging the source of that information) will not be tolerated. If you aren’t sure what plagiarism means, consult the website: http://library.csun.edu/Guides/ResearchStrategies/AvoidingPlagiarism

- **Assumptions I Make About You:** You have made a conscious, informed choice to be a member of this class. This means that you have read the syllabus, know the workload required, and you will turn in your assignments on time and follow the conduct rules outlined in this document. Be aware that for a class of 3 units like this you should spend at least **6 hours** per week on your own (reading, making notes, working on assignments, etc.).
- **Assumptions You Can Make About me:** I will do my best to help you to achieve your goals in this class. I will give you the respect that I ask you to give me and the other members of this class. I will be available to help you, but you must let me know that you need help. If you do not turn in an assignment, I will assume that you are content with a grade of zero for that assignment.
Course website and Email:
Please log on course website and check your CSUN email account regularly for handouts, updates, assignments, exams, and surveys. You are responsible for all course related materials and information distributed through them.
• When you email to me, please have “ART 413” in the subject line! Without the required info, your email may not get read in a timely manner!

Schedule of classes (subject to change)
Week 1 (Aug 27) Introduction to the class
***Assignment plan due
***Syllabus report due online by the end of the week

Topic: Wars, Revolution, and Modern Art

Week 3 (Sept 10) Sullivan, chapter 6-8: 58-87.

***Paper Topic Due online before class begins

Topic: Reform, Open-door Policy, and the Avant-garde Art
*** one-to-one meeting with the instructor


***Online Exam I (selective)

Topic: Marketization, Urbanization, and Contemporary Art

Week 9 (Oct 22) Wang, “chapter 2: From the Countryside to the City,” 29-75; film: Under The Same Sky by Yoyo Li.
***Paper proposal and annotated bibliography due before class (online)

***Commentator’s work due before class (online)***


***Exhibition Review (selective)***


***answer reading reflection questions online by the end of the week***


***Sign-up for student presentations due***


***Gallery Show Project/Creative project due (selective)***

**Week 15 (Dec 3)** Student presentations

**Week 16 (Dec 10)** Student presentations

***Final Paper due (selective)***

***Online Exam II (selective)***

Final week: this class has no final and thus no class meeting on final week. However, I will be in my office during the final exam time for students who might have questions about their grades.
**Assignment Plan** (keep this form for yourself and turn in the next one)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment type</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1. Class participation and presentation (30 points)</td>
<td>Every week</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Research paper project (Part 1)</td>
<td>Week 9th before class (online)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
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The points you earn will be your final grade, out of 100

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**instructor’s note:**

Last name:                        First name:                     Date:  

The points you earn will be your final grade, out of 100

**Total:**