Description of the Course:
The course explores a history of Chinese art and culture from Bronze Age to Modern period, with particular focuses on the productions of ritual vessels, religious sculptures, and literati paintings. We will consider the issues of patronage, material culture, art collections, and art theories. Lectures will include the introductions of Chinese history, religion, and aesthetics. To give a focused theme on a long history of Chinese art, we pay particular attention to the issues of ritual and art, the patrons (kings, emperors, collectors, and connoisseurs) and politics that affected the use and designs of art works as expressions of power.

Learning Objectives:
- To familiarize with visual arts and cultures of China
- To develop an ability to analyze, interpret, and write on visual works of art
- To learn to contextualize cultural and historical significance of Chinese art
- To develop critical thinking ability in response to scholarly literature
**Requirements and policies:**

1. Three take-home exams: (25% x 3): Exam questions will be on the material covered in lectures with expectations of external research.

2. Group project: (25%): Class will be divided into small groups (3 to 4 students per group); each group make a short video (4 minutes) that introduces one of the following historical figures and their art associations:
   - Qin Shihuangdi (the First Emperor of China)
   - Confucius (and music)
   - Emperor Huizong (the last emperor of Northern Song Dynasty)
   - Scholar Su Dongpo (and poetry)
   - Empress Wu Zeitan (the consort who married to two Tang emperors)
   - Consort Yang Guifei (the famous beauty)
   - Artist Maya Lin (Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall, Washington D.C.)

**Policies:**
- The completion of all assignments
- Mandatory class attendance; notify absence in advance
- Late papers will be downgraded by a third of a full grade each day.

**An important note on Plagiarism:**
Absolutely no plagiarism is tolerated. If detected, that portion of the assignment receives 0 point or grade of F, and I report to Academic Judiciary Affairs Officer. For your information, please review Tufts University Academic Integrity. And if you are not sure how to cite your academic sources properly, please consult with me before you hand in papers.

**Textbook and online resources information:**
- **Textbook:** Thorp, Robert and Richard Vinograd. *Chinese Art and Culture.* NY: Harry N. Abrams, 2001. (You may purchase it from Amazon.com, etc.)
- **JSTOR:** Online database of academic articles
  [http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/](http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/)
- **Art Online:** Oxford Art Online, excellent encyclopedia
- **Heilburnn:** Online Timeline of Art History, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC.
  [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/)
- **Ebrey:** A Visual Sourcebook of Chinese Civilization Prepared by Patricia Ebrey
- **Manual:** Chicago Manual of Style Online: Use it when writing an academic paper
  [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/home.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/home.html)
SCHEDULE (subject to revision; read assignments before class)

1/21   Introduction: About the course and expectations

I. ANCIENT CHINA: Royals and Material Culture

Week 1: Shang and Western Zhou Periods: Great Bronze culture


Week 2: Eastern Zhou dynasty period: Elite crafts and material culture


Week 3: Han dynasty period: Desire to be immortal


Week 4: Invention of brushes and calligraphy

2/16   First Take-home exam questions will be distributed in class
   - Instruction on academic writing and formatting notes
   - Calligraphy practice [If you have a calligraphy brush, please bring it to class.]

2/18   NO CLASS—Tufts Monday Schedule

II. RELIGIONS AND ARTS: Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism
Week 5: Infiltration of Buddhism in China


2/25 First Take-home Exam due (in class or via email attachment by 5:00pm)

Week 6: Sui and Tang Dynasties: Profusion of Buddhist schools


Week 7: Confucian and Daoist narrative images


3/10 DEBATE (Topic to be announced)

III. PAINTING TRADITION: History of Art History

Week 8: Song dynasty: Rise of landscape painting tradition


3/17 Second Take-home exam questions will be distributed in class

Week 9: 3/22, 3/24 NO CLASS (Spring Recess)
Week 10: Southern Song and Yuan dynasties: Scholars, politicians, and art critics

3/29 Second Take-home Exam due (in class or via email attachment by 5:00pm)


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**Week 11:** Ming dynasty: Two-school theory


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**Week 12:** Qing dynasty to People’s Republic: Expressionism


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**Week 13:** After Mao

4/19  **Third Take-home exam questions will be distributed in class**
Lecture 20: Contemporary Chinese art, and review of the course

4/21 Group presentations

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**Week 14:** More Group Presentation

4/26 Group presentations continued

4/28 Group presentations continued

5/3  **Third Take-home exam due by 5:00pm via email attachment**
### Books on TISCH Library Reserve

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### Chronology:

For time chart of dynastic periods, see page 25 of Thorp & Vinograd. *Chinese Art and Culture.*