

Chinese Calligraphy 101

Fall Quarter 2003
University of Chicago

Classroom: Cobb(Room 102)

Class Time: Sunday 1-3pm

Instructor: Chang He changhe@uchicago.edu 834-9447

Seen Meng Chew seenmeng@uchicago.edu

Teaching Assistants: Sushu Xia sushux@juno.com 752-6378

Yili Lim yilime@uchicago.edu 684-2746

Course Website: <http://calligraphy.uchicago.edu>

Course Description:

The Chinese Calligraphy Club (CCC) at the University of Chicago has been offering weekly calligraphy lessons at the U of C since last year. Chinese Calligraphy 101 is an introductory course that teaches the fundamental techniques and aesthetic values of Chinese Calligraphy. NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCES OF CHINESE OR CALLIGRAPHY ARE REQUIRED. You will be introduced to the history and art of Chinese calligraphy through an exhibition of different calligraphy styles and display of calligraphy supplies, then you can put your knowledge to use in a workshop with hands-on instruction. All the calligraphy supplies will be provided for fee.

This course is also complimented by several calligraphy activities: Art Institute Calligraphy exhibition trip, Chinese art supplies shopping trip and a University of Chicago Chinese Calligraphy Competition in second quarter. More events will be informed during the practice sessions.

Course Schedule:

Calligraphy 101 instruct in the order of: Introductions→an individual stroke→a character→an art work

Week 3 Introductory of Chinese calligraphy

- Why learn Chinese calligraphy?
- Calligraphy supplies: Four treasures of calligraphy
- How to learn Calligraphy well as a beginner
- How to use brushes
- Positions of sitting while writing calligraphy
- History of Chinese calligraphy
- Why calligraphy is important to Chinese culture

- How to write calligraphy
- Basic movements of wrist and hand

Week 4 Mid-term relax and movie time

Week 5 Strokes

- Structures of Chinese characters
- Difference between writing with brushes and normal pens and why

Nine basics strokes and practice

Week 6 Refinements

- Changes of Characters
- What is good calligraphy writing?
- How to avoid the hair shedding of brushes
- How to fit a character nicely in a grid

Week 7 Styles

- Standard style
- Structures of Characters—balance
- Center of weight
- Structure of characters—compounded characters
- Structure of characters—harmony

Week 8 Personal Style

- How to write a beautiful character
- Force of strokes
- How to copy a script
- Creation of calligraphy art works
- Beginning with Yan and Kai Styles
- Personality
- Rhythm of Chinese calligraphy

Week 9 Appreciation and Variations

- Arrangement of a complete art works
- Size, Style and emotion
- Philosophy of Calligraphy
- Qualities of a good work
- How to read script
- How to appreciate calligraphy
- Brush Calligraphy and Pen Calligraphy
- Relationship of standard style and cursive style
- How to practice calligraphy on your own