CHN 1651F – HUC
Chinese Symbols and Icons
Fall term 2020, To be delivered online.

Class Time: Learning activities are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday each week. Please see the schedule and deadlines of learning activities on OWL.

Instructor: Dr. Guoyuan Liu  Email: gliu23@uwo.ca
Office Hours: OWL Forums or Zoom meeting by appointment.

Course prerequisite: NONE

Course description:
This entry-level, essay-type course aims to offer an overview of Chinese culture to students with a general interest in China. The course surveys traditional symbols and icons still prevalent in China’s everyday life, ranging from “yin-yang,” “dragon” “mandarin ducks” and “the double-happiness,” to “the Three Stars,” “Lord Guan” and “Avalokitesvara” (Guanyin). Treating these symbols and icons as image-signifiers, the course illustrates the socio-historical contexts that have shaped major symbolism in China. Thus with symbols and images examined comparatively in various contexts: pre-modern China, modern China, overseas Chinese communities and non-Chinese cultures, the course will demonstrate that symbolism is socially constructed and should not be taken for granted. By this means, the course will not only help students gain a basic understanding of Chinese culture, but will also prepare them in critical thinking skills and cross-cultural perspectives for university studies at a higher level. Taught in English.

Course objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to
1. recognize important symbols and icons in Chinese culture;
2. understand the role of symbols and icons in cultural interactions,
3. demonstrate basic critical thinking skills for observing cultural phenomena.

Textbooks and required resources: available on OWL.

Class Methods: Recorded Lectures, Forum discussion, written assignments, Zoom tutorials (TBA)
Please read the instruction and view the introductory video (to be uploaded to OWL before September 10) carefully and make sure you understand how lectures are given, and how learning activities are scheduled, organized and assessed.
All course materials, lectures and other learning activities are to be found in “Lessons” on OWL.
Method of evaluation and assessment:
Online participation 10%
Lecture quizzes 10%
Reading quizzes 10%
Midterm exam (open book; take-home) 20%
Essay 50%

Schedule of classes:

September 10 Introduction:
How to study this course online; how learning activities are scheduled, organized and assessed.

September 15 A Chinese Symbol
What we can learn from the official logo of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games

Readings:

September 17 The Power of Yin-Yang
Chinese symbols and the Chinese cosmic view

Readings:
“Pan Ku and the Creation Myth” in Myths and Legends of China by E. T. C. Werner. Singapore: Graham Brash, Ltd. 1922. 76-78.

September 22 The Chinese Zodiac
Mythical beasts and the comic order in Chinese culture

Readings:

September 24 The Chinese Dragon
The most important animal symbol in Chinese culture

Readings:

September 29 Salient zoological symbols
The tiger, the horse, and other symbolic animals

Readings:
“Bat, Bird, Butterfly, Crane, Fish, Fox, Lion, Horse, Magpie, Mandarin Duck, Phoenix-Pig, Qilin (Please do not call it 'unicorn'). Tally-Taotie, Tiger, Tortoise” from *A Dictionary of Chinese Symbols.*

**October 1 Botanic Symbolism**
The lotus, the peony, and other symbolic plants

Readings:

**October 6 Symbolism of human figures**
The symbolism of human figures

Readings:
“Face, Gestures” from *A Dictionary of Chinese Symbols.*

**October 8 Saints, Immortals, Heroes and Beauties**
The symbolism of human figures

Readings:
“Beauty, the Four callings, Children, Confucius, Emperor, the Eight Immortals (Eight), Fairies, Gestures-Ghost, Girl, Guandi, Hero, Immortals, Lao-zi, God of longevity, Official, God of riches” from *A Dictionary of Chinese Symbols.*

**October 13 Understanding Buddhist Symbolism**
Buddha, Bodhisattva, and Buddhist emblems

Readings: The Heart Sutra

**October 15 Buddhist Symbolism in Chinese culture**
Symbols of Buddhist origin in Chinese everyday life

Readings:

**October 27-29 Midterm exam (20%)**
This is an open-book, take-home exam. Please see instructions in “Lessons”

**November 2-6 Fall Reading Week**
No class meeting
November 10 Essay preparation
How to write an essay on symbolism (for this course).

November 12 The Importance of a Decorated Life
Symbolism in furniture, vessels, and other objects

Readings:

November 17 Finding Your Way in the Symbolic World
The cosmic symbolism of space

Readings:
“Bridge, Gate, Geomancy (Fengshui), Landscape, Left and Right, Middle, Moon, Mountain, Pass, Pavilion, River, Sun, Terrace, Water” from *A Dictionary of Chinese Symbols*.

November 19 Architectural symbols
Symbolism of architecture and architectural ornaments

Readings:
“Dragon” (2) from *Chinese Art: A Guide to Motifs and Visual Imagery*.
“Bridge, Gate, Geomancy (Fengshui), Landscape, Left and Right, Middle, Moon, Mountain, Pass, Pavilion, River, Sun, Terrace, Water” from *A Dictionary of Chinese Symbols*.

November 24 Observing Olympic Symbolism
Video: *The Opening Ceremony of the 29th Olympic Games*.

November 26 Understanding the Narrative of the Opening Ceremony
Discussion of *the Opening Ceremony of the 29th Olympic Games*.

December 1 A High-speed Train Named Harmony
The politics of symbolism in contemporary China

Images to be presented in class

December 3 Symbolism in today’s China
A comprehensive exercise in reading Chinese symbols

Images to be presented in class

December 8 Conclusion
Online learning
This course is delivered online. You will study all materials and do all assignments at home through the Internet. There will be no in-person meeting throughout this course. All learning activities will be done on OWL (owl.uwo.ca). Readings, lectures, assignments, quizzes and exams are organized with the “Lessons” tool on OWL.

Learning activities
This course is designed in a task-oriented manner. On each day from Monday to Thursday, you are expected to complete the study of a unit. Each unit consists of a series of guided learning tasks. The learning activities in each unit include assignments, quizzes, discussion, etc. The results will be graded and will be part of your final course grade. For the best outcome, please follow the instructions and complete the learning activities as guided.

Schedule and deadlines
You are expected to keep up with the schedule and complete your studies before the deadlines on each day. After the deadline, the quizzes, class discussion and other assignment for the unit will be closed. The grade for missed learning activities and assignment will be zero. Please read the instructions carefully and check the schedule from time to time to make sure you do not miss any deadline.

Communication
All questions about the subjects of the course or about the learning activities and quizzes in the course should be posted in Forums under the topic “Questions.” Please view the posted questions and answers, because other people’s questions might probably be your concern, too. Before posting your question, please check to see if a similar question was already posted and answered. Please DO NOT ask questions of this kind by email. Questions. Such emails might not be replied.

If you have any personal request, you are welcome to send me an email to gliu23@uwo.ca. I will do my best to reply emails of this kind promptly.

If you need to arrange a zoom meeting with me, please sent me an email to arrange an appointment.

All notices in this course will be sent to your uwo email addresses. Please check your uwo email regularly.

Course work:
Please be reminded that your final grade reflects your performance in this course. As the term begins, your grade is zero and will increase with the accumulation of your course work. Please read the following descriptions carefully and decided how to earn your
grade.

**Reading quizzes (10%)**
There will be 10 reading quizzes in this course, each worth 1%. The quizzes will be posted in the subpage of the relevant unit in “Lessons.” Each quiz must be finished before the indicated deadline. After the deadline the quiz will be closed and **There will be no make-up for missed reading quizzes.**

**Lecture quizzes (10%)**
There will be 10 lecture quizzes in this course, each worth 1%. The quizzes will be posted in the subpage of the relevant unit in “Lessons.” Each quiz must be finished before the indicated deadline. After the deadline the quiz will be closed and **There will be no make-up for missed reading quizzes.**

**Online participation /Class discussion (10%)**
You can participate in class discussion with the “Forums” tool on OWL. In each unit, you can follow the link in the subpage in Lessons to find the relevant topic in Forums. Like the quizzes, the discussion has a deadline, after which the topic will be closed.

Your posts should not only demonstrate your familiarity with the subject discussed, but also your critical consideration of it. In class discussion, you are expected to not only post your own opinions, but also interact with the opinions of others.

Please see the rubrics for assessing participation on OWL.

**Midterm Exam (20%)**
The midterm exam is an online, open-book exam. You can find the instructions and rubrics on the subpage for the exam in Lessons on OWL.

**Essay (50%)**
The essay of this course is a university essay. In a university essay, you are expected to present an argument. That is, you are expected to state an opinion about a theme or a literary text and support your opinion with sound reasoning and sufficient evidence. It is assumed that you already understand the basic concepts of a university essay. If you are not familiar with the requirements for the essay structure, the thesis statement, etc., you might find the links for writing assistance helpful.

You can find the instructions and rubrics on the subpage for the essay in Lessons on OWL.

**Plagiarism and any other misconduct will not be tolerated.**
Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2020 - 2021

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information
Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it without them, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. If you enrol in this course despite having already taken an antirequisite you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Removals for these reasons may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites or for having already taken the antirequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars
Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

While in the physical classroom or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: enter and leave quietly. Please see the Code of Student Conduct at: www.huronuc.on.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf.

Technology
It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Adding / Dropping Courses
If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by
dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Huron website, https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Class Cancellations
In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post all relevant information on the OWL class site and on the Huron website at, https://huronatwestern.ca/about/accessibility.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations
A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.

2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Please see the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Academic Student Support Services
For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: https://huronatwestern.ca/academic-advising.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/contact-directory.
**Copyright Regarding Course Material**
Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student’s answers or papers on the course website he/she should ask for the student’s written permission.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**
The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:
- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one’s own.

**Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact**
Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another’s work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars, it is also an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual’s
university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university’s work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual’s, and the public’s, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university’s reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction, to failure in the course, to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean’s Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean’s Office for the duration of the student’s academic career at Huron University College.

**Statement on Academic Offences**
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as per the Academic Calendar:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_189

**Turnitin.com**
All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (https://www.turnitin.com/).

**Computer-Marked Tests/exams**
Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

**Clickers**
Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and
Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Accommodation for Students With Disabilities
Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/.

Please review the full policy at, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work
Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.
Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

Please note the following conditions that are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- Any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.
- Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term.
- Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Please review the full policy at, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf.

Policy on “Academic” Accommodation - Medical / Non-Medical Grounds

(a) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go directly to Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

University Senate policy, which can be found at, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf, requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor may require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

(c) Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/ Academic Advising

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, bereavement) the student should contact an academic advisor directly. All accommodation requests must include a completed Accommodation Request Form. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.
Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student’s request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student’s ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

**Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western**
University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit [https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety](https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety) for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca
Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, [www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/).

**Important Dates & Directory**
For a current and up-to-date list of important dates and campus directories, please visit:

- **Huron** – Important Dates: [https://huronuc.ca/important-dates-and-deadlines](https://huronuc.ca/important-dates-and-deadlines)
- **Academic Calendar & Sessional Dates:** [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm)
- **Huron Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** [https://huronuc.ca/index.php/contact/contact-directory](https://huronuc.ca/index.php/contact/contact-directory)
- **Western Directory – Faculty, Staff and Administration:** [https://www.uwo.ca/directory.html](https://www.uwo.ca/directory.html)