

Confucius Institute
Western Michigan University
Chinese Ink Painting- Primary
Course Syllabus Fall 2017

Instructor

Chengjun Yin

(269) 903-8628

Email: Chengjun.yin@wmich.edu

Location and Time

Mondays 5:30pm-7:00pm

Sep 25-Dec 4

Location: Brown Hall 4025

Office Hours

Monday 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Target Students

Anyone who is interested in Chinese Ink Painting and its history. There is no Chinese language proficiency requirement.

Required Materials

Class materials will be provided during the course:

1. Paint brushes:3 different sizes, if not, at least 2
2. Rice paper (raw)
3. Paper weight

4. Wool felt or some kind of cloth (use under rice paper)
5. Black and colored ink
6. Palette (2 or 3 white plates)
7. A short container for washing brushes

Course Description

In a very long history, Chinese ink painting formed its own art culture that is completely different from western painting because of the different philosophy. It has become an important token of Chinese arts civilization and one of the most important ways to express the painter's feelings, aesthetics and ideal.

American artist and educator Arthur Wesley Dow (1857–1922) wrote about Chinese ink wash painting: "The painter ...put upon the paper the fewest possible lines and tones; just enough to cause form, texture and effect to be felt. Every brush-touch must be full-charged with meaning, and useless detail eliminated. Put together all the good points in such a method, and you have the qualities of the highest art".

This course is for you to learn the fundamentals of Chinese ink painting, which involves drawing objects (plants and flower) with simple brush strokes in different tonality and shading achieved by varying the ink density on absorbent rice paper. It begins with learning the basic skills. The goal is to inspire you achieving a completed ink painting (flower or landscape) through practice of painting different objects with different techniques. Anyone can learn to appreciate Chinese ink painting and get inspired in just a few weeks.

Course Objectives

- Learn to appreciate the beauty of Chinese ink painting.
- Learn to paint some flower or landscape using freehand brushstrokes.
- Get inspired and create your own Chinese ink painting.

Course Expectations

In order to receive the greatest benefit from your participation in the course, you are expected to fully participate in class and learn Chinese ink painting with interests and enthusiasm.

Final Project

In order to satisfy the requirement for receipt of a Certificate of Completion, a final project presentation will be due on week 11. You can choose to: paint a kind of flower, landscape or a combination of two we learned on rice paper or give a 10-minute presentation on a specific topic of your choice related to Chinese ink painting.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1	Introduction to Chinese ink painting (history, philosophy, technique, tools and materials)
Week 2	Orchid
Week 3	Orchid
Week 4	Chinese wistaria
Week 5	Chinese wistaria
Week 6	Plum Blossom
Week 7	Plum Blossom
Week 8	landscape
Week 9	landscape
Week 10	Review
Week 11	Review and exhibition

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule at any time.

Certificate of Completion

The Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University awards Certificates of Completion to participants who have successfully completed the course objectives. In order to receive a Certificate of Completion, you also need to meet the following requirements:

- Attend no less than 5 scheduled classes
- Successfully complete the final project
- Attend the graduation ceremony during the final class