



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

CHIN 317  
Topics in Chinese Civilization (Topic: Words, Hanzi, and Things)  
Spring 2023  
MWF 13:00-14:50 In-Person ST 135  
COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Dr. Chun Shao

**OFFICE HOURS:** W 16:00-17:00 in person or via Zoom (see D2L for link), or by appointment (send email)

**E-MAIL:** chun.shao1@ucalgary.com [I will respond to e-mails within 24 hrs during weekdays.]

**DESCRIPTION**

The written system of Chinese language has its long evolutionary history and possesses a unique position in Chinese civilization. The system as it is still used today consists of Hanzi, which are mainly ideophonetic. We will study the evolution of the styles of Chinese writing from the first picto/ideographs to today's script. We will also study the Chinese writing system's semantic keys that generate all words, but especially organize the world, and the "things" in it, into culturally motivated groups.

**OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- To understand the Chinese writing system and its evolution
- To understand Chinese characters formulation and classification, semantic keys, radicals, and their significance
- To understand the relation between Chinese characters and Chinese civilization

**OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be familiar with the change and development of the Chinese writing system throughout the different eras. Students will also have the ability to recognize the relation between Hanzi and different civilizational factors.

**REQUIRED COURSE MAERIALS**

**Textbook**

Han, J. (2016) *Chinese Characters*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (Note that the book is available to purchase in the university bookstore.)

**Book Excepts**

1) Sun, Chaofen. 2006. *Chinese: A Linguistic Introduction*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Pp 101-114. (The electronic version is available on the library website <https://www.cambridgeorg.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/core/books/chinese/2C92AC84C44AFCAF360E62E23C27188E>.)

2) Norman, Jerry. 1988. *Chinese*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp 58-82. (The electronic version is available on the library website <https://www.fulcrum-org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/concern/monographs/gr46r131q> )

3) Li, Feng, Branner, David Prager. 2011, *Writing & literacy in early China studies from the Columbia Early China Seminar*, Seattle: University of Washington Press. Pp 173-205, Pp 270-301. (The electronic version is available on the library website [https://ucalgary.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991028066282404336&context=L&vid=01UCALG\\_INST:UCALGARY&lang=en&search\\_scope=EVERYTHING&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=QuickSearch&query=any,contains,Chinese%20early%20writing&offset=0](https://ucalgary.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991028066282404336&context=L&vid=01UCALG_INST:UCALGARY&lang=en&search_scope=EVERYTHING&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=QuickSearch&query=any,contains,Chinese%20early%20writing&offset=0) )



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**Journal Article**

1) Postgate, Nicholas; Wang, Tao; Wilkinson, Toby. *The evidence for early writing: utilitarian or ceremonial?* *Antiquity*, 1995-09, Vol.69 (264), Pp459-480. (The electronic version is available on the library website [https://ucalgary.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=cdi\\_proquest\\_miscellaneous\\_38849222&context=PC&vid=01UCALG\\_INST:UCALGARY&lang=en&search\\_scope=EVERYTHING&adaptor=Primo%20Central&tab=QuickSearch&query=any,contains,Chinese%20characters%20revealing%20ancient%20civilization&offset=0](https://ucalgary.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_38849222&context=PC&vid=01UCALG_INST:UCALGARY&lang=en&search_scope=EVERYTHING&adaptor=Primo%20Central&tab=QuickSearch&query=any,contains,Chinese%20characters%20revealing%20ancient%20civilization&offset=0))

**Video**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlriOEoxU3s>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tlf5iSHftM>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqJaW2H8GkM>
4. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnAE\\_88MQm4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnAE_88MQm4)
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8nBkIOESO4&t=401s>

Please make sure to sign in with the "My U of C" account to access the pdf version.

Schedule of weekly materials (Any additional materials will be posted on D2L.)

Week	Required reading materials and videos before each week
1	<i>Han, Chinese Characters, Pp 1-15.</i> Postgate, Nicholas; Wang, Tao; Wilkinson, Toby. 1995. <i>The evidence for early writing: utilitarian or ceremonial?</i>
2	<i>Han, Chinese Characters, Pp 16-50,</i> Norman, Jerry. 1988. <i>Chinese.</i> Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. p58-82.
3	<i>Han, Chinese Characters, Pp 51 -80</i> Sun, Chaofen. 2006. <i>Chinese: A Linguistic Introduction.</i> Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. p101-114
4	<i>Han, Chinese Characters, Pp81-97</i> Li, Feng, Branner, David Prager. 2011, <i>Writing &amp; literacy in early China studies, Pp 173-205</i>
5	<i>Han, Chinese Characters, Pp98-125</i> Li, Feng, Branner, David Prager. 2011, <i>Writing &amp; literacy in early China studies, Pp 270-301</i>
6	<i>Han, Chinese Characters, Pp 126-143</i> Video 1 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlriOEoxU3s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlriOEoxU3s</a> Video 2 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tlf5iSHftM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tlf5iSHftM</a>
7	<i>Han, Chinese Characters, Pp 144-160</i> Video 3 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqJaW2H8GkM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqJaW2H8GkM</a> Video 4 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnAE_88MQm4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnAE_88MQm4</a> Video 5 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8nBkIOESO4&amp;t=401s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8nBkIOESO4&amp;t=401s</a>

**RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS**

Fazzioli, E. (1987) *Chinese Calligraphy.* New York, USA: Abbeville Publishing Group.

**COURSE NOTES**

1. The course has both face-to-face and online components.

**In class components:** We are scheduled to meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1:00PM. We will talk about the content of the relevant topic, work in groups and do short discussions.

**Online components:** All information related to this course will be posted on D2L. It is students' responsibility to check all information on D2L. The information included in the course outline and the course schedule is not binding and can be subject to change according to the needs of students and the class progress. Students are asked to engage in the following activities:

- do the relevant readings
- participate in the D2L discussion board
- submit assignments (Critical Responses, Presentation Draft, project) to the drop box on D2L



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2. No recording of this course is allowed.
3. Regular attendance is strongly expected.
4. Policy in case of missed or late assignments.
  - No makeup quizzes will be provided.
  - No makeup tests will be provided without acceptable reasons.
  - Acceptable reasons for the postponement of a test are serious illness, attending one’s own wedding, and attending the funeral of an immediate family member. All acceptable reasons must be substantiated by appropriate documentations except illness.
  - A deduction of 10% of the mark will be applied for a late assignment each day; an assignment will not be accepted after three days from the due day.
5. Students’ university email will be used to correspond regarding this course.
6. There is a holiday (no class) on Monday, **May 22.**
7. Group presentations should be signed up through google docs and delivered on the due date. No chance of make-up presentation will be provided without a valid reason. If students know in advance that they cannot make presentations in class due to any valid reason listed in the item “4” above, they should inform the instructor as early as possible so that the instructor can make alternative arrangements.
8. Students are required to select from two pieces of materials and submit a 2-pages critical response to the questions the instructor raises. Requirement and criteria will be posted on D2L.
9. Students are expected to do a discussion task each week. A discussion task will be released on D2L each week, and students have 3 days to complete the task. Requirement and criteria will be posted on D2L.
10. Please let your instructor know immediately if you cannot meet the deadlines specified, so that the instructor can work with you to consider alternative dates/assessments.
11. If you have any questions related to this course, please send an e-mail to the instructor.
12. Guidelines for submitting assignments:
  - “Quizzes”: Students are required to finish 5-minutes preview quizzes in class.
  - D2L “Discussions”: Weekly discussions are set up and completed in D2L.
  - D2L “Drop box”: group presentation script and /or slides (each student of a group needs to submit). Requirement and criteria will be posted on D2L.
  - For critical response, students are required to finish the outline, the introduction part in class, and finish the rest parts after class before due. Requirement and criteria will be posted on D2L.
  - Group presentation (around 10 minutes) and tests(85-minutes) are to be completed in class.

**ASSESSMENT**

7 Preview Quizzes	x	3%	= 21%	May 5, 8, 15, 24, & 31; June 7 & 12
5 Discussions	x	3%	= 15%	May 12, 19, 26; June 9, & 14
1 Group Presentation	x	12%	= 12%	From May 15
1 Project	x	12%	= 12%	June 2
1 Critical Responses	x	10%	= 10%	June 9
3 Tests	x	10%	= 30%	May19; June 2 & 14

There is No final exam.

**GRADING SCALE**

A+: 96-100 A: 92-95 A-: 88-91 B+: 83-87 B: 78-82 B-: 73-77

C+: 70-72 C: 65-69 C-: 60-64 D+: 55-59 D: 50-54 F: 0-49

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 87.5% will be rounded up to 88% = A-, but 87.4% will be rounded down to 87% = B+).



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#### **INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

#### **Academic misconduct**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behaviour which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at:

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations> .

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

#### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.



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In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Tower.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

#### **INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops and tablets are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

#### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.