

COURSE DETAIL

BEAUTIES AND THE BEASTS: SONG AND YUAN PAINTING

Country

Hong Kong

Host Institution

University of Hong Kong

Program(s)

University of Hong Kong

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Asian Studies Art History

UCEAP Course Number

108

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

BEAUTIES AND THE BEASTS: SONG AND YUAN PAINTING

UCEAP Transcript Title

SONG&YUAN PAINTING

UCEAP Quarter Units

5.00

UCEAP Semester Units

3.30

Course Description

This course examines the relationships between imagery and text from late Tang to Yuan dynasty with emphasis on the rise of genre painting. Various literary traditions associated with the appreciation of Chinese paintings are central to explore the appeal of this new subject matter. The course investigates themes shared between painting and poetry of this period. Modern historians characterize the Song dynasty as a period of profound innovation in both painting and scholarship. With the influx of men of common backgrounds to positions of prestige in the bureaucracy, the Song experienced an intellectual re-evaluation of traditional culture that invigorated the pictorial arts. Genre painting, or images that celebrated the lives of commoners, flourished during this period. Previously figure painting was dominated by the portrayal of beautiful people – those who were in court. Why switch to imagery of those less attractive? The course explores possible motivations for the development of this new type of depiction. Was the acceptance of genre painting as a subject suitable for painting encouraged by the new kind of scholar-officials who claimed to be of the common people? What were Song dynasty attitudes towards the common man? What did it mean for the powerful elite to want to view images of those who were in the lower classes? The course draws upon materials in Chinese, although it is not essential that students read Chinese.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

FINE2053

Host Institution Course Title

BEAUTIES AND THE BEASTS: SONG AND YUAN PAINTING

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Fine Arts

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