



**Course Title:** Chinese Archaeology and Art

**Course Code:** ARC 166

**Course Date/Time:** Tuesdays 7:00 PM - 8:50 PM, October 11<sup>th</sup> - November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (No class November 8<sup>th</sup>)

**Instructor Name:** Patrick Hunt

**Note on Recording:**

Class sessions will be recorded for students unable to attend live.

**Course Summary**

Largely unknown and exotic to the West for too long, China has one of the longest histories of any world region. Rich in art and treasured artifacts of civilization, China also has a long tradition of creating unsurpassed ceramics; “miracle” textiles such as silk; high-tin bronzes and advanced metallurgy; stonework such as jade; and ivory, lacquerware, and many other materials.

This five-week course covers artistic and archaeological wonders via amply-illustrated lectures from the late Neolithic period (Longshan) through the Xia, Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han, W-E Jin, Sui, Tang, Song, Liao, Jin, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, roughly 3000 BCE to the 19th century CE. Some important sites surveyed include Banpo, Erlitou, Yin Xu, and Xi’an. The electrifying 1974 discovery in Xi’an of the Tomb of the “First Emperor” (Qin Shi Huang), who forcibly unified China, is still revealing enormous information on the imperial wealth and power that set precedents for later dynasties. Besides exploring China’s peerless material history, this course includes an optional visit to see Chinese art housed at the Cantor Arts Center for local students. Students will have the opportunity to view Chinese bronzes from the Shang dynasty onward, a wide range of Chinese ceramics from triple-glaze to celadon, several jade sculptures, an articulated ivory and metal dragon, many cloisonné

masterpieces, and more. While the technological genius of China is often taken for granted in the modern world, the deep soul of China is best expressed through its incredible art over millennia.

### Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - Attendance not required. No assignments due. Proof of course completion not available with this option.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Attendance required for all 5 class meetings (either by attending Zoom live or watching recordings).
- Letter Grade
  - Attendance required for all 5 class meetings (either by attending Zoom live or watching recordings).
  - Submission of final paper or ample discussion posts (1000+ words)

### Course Readings:

Craig Clunas. *Art in China: Oxford History of Art*. Oxford, 1997 or newest edition.

Patrick Hunt. *Ten Discoveries That Rewrote History*, Penguin Group, 2007, ch. 10. “Tomb of 10,000 [Terracotta] Warriors: Key to Imperial China”, 199-218. (PDF to be provided).

Patrick Hunt, “Chinese Jade: The Stone for Eternity” *Electrum Magazine*, May 2017.

Patrick Hunt. “Tang Dynasty Terracotta Lady Tomb Figurines: Endearing Subtle Whimsy” *Electrum Magazine* August 2017

**Weekly Outline:**

10/11 Chinese Metalworking Genius: Neolithic China and Bronze Age  
China onward: Shang to Qing Dynasty  
Reading: Clunas, Introduction/Preface and chs. 1-2

10/18 Chinese Ceramic Genius: From Stoneware to Porcelain and  
Kaolin Clay Reading: Clunas, chs. 3-4  
Reading: Patrick Hunt. “Tang Dynasty Terracotta Lady Tomb  
Figurines: Endearing Subtle Whimsy” *Electrum Magazine* August  
2017

<http://www.electrummagazine.com/2017/08/tang-dynasty-terracotta-lady-tomb-figurines-endearing-subtle-whimsy/>

11/ 25 Chinese Stone Working Genius, especially Jade  
Reading: Hunt, “Chinese Jade, Stone for Eternity” *Electrum  
Magazine* 5/17

<http://www.electrummagazine.com/2017/05/chinese-jade-the-stone-of-eternity/>

11/ 1 Chinese Silk Genius: The Miracle Textile From Legend to  
Reality Reading: Clunas, ch. 5

11/15 The Tomb of the Terracotta Warriors, its Treasures and  
Mysteries Reading: P. Hunt, “Tomb of 10,000 Warriors” from  
*Ten Discoveries That Rewrote History*, Penguin Group 2007, ch.  
10. 199-218 (PDF to be provided)

***Note we have no class on 11/8. Also note that the Clunas readings follow a more chronological framework rather than the topical sessions, although these topical sessions are also internally sequenced by chronology.***