Chinese 195: Chinese Character writing

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Course Description

This course is designed to teach students how to write Chinese characters. The history of
the language and the evolution and the structure of the characters will be briefly
introduced. Cultural aspects of Chinese characters will be discussed including religion,
and family ethics. About 100 characters will be introduced along with their meanings and
the pronunciation. However, the main emphasis of this course will be writing Chinese
characters. Basics of strokes, sequence of the strokes, basic rules to position the strokes
of a character will serve as the guidelines for character writing practice. This course is
open to anyone who is interested in writing Chinese characters.

Course Objectives

1. Learning the basic strokes and rules of sequence of writing a character
2. Learning to balance the strokes of a character well
3. Introduction to the history of Chinese characters
4. Introduction to the structure of Chinese characters
5. Understanding the relationship between Chinese culture and characters

Textbook

Character Workbook (Simplified Character Edition) – Level 1 Part 1

Grading Rationale

Attendance, class participation, group work: 50%.
Assignments: 50%.
Planned Topics (Tentative)

Early Written Language
Origin of Chinese characters
Formation of Chinese characters
Evolution of Chinese characters
Writing Chinese characters
Learning to understand the meaning of Chinese characters
Chinese characters and religion
Chinese characters and ancient family ethics

Bibliography:

Li, Fan (2005) A Brief History of Chinese Characters, China Friendship Publisher (in Chinese)


Related Websites:
http://www.chinaettravel.com/china/script.html
http://www.touregypt.net/featuresstories/writing.htm
http://www.english.ega.edu/~hypertxt/040699sci-early-writing.htm
http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=1596&HistoryID=ab33