Confucius Institute
Western Michigan University
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Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5245
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Chinese Music Appreciation and Instrument Instruction

Course Syllabus

Summer Term 2010 (May 17, May 24, June 7, June 14, June 21, June 28)

Instructors
Xiaochun Lu and Ms. Yiming Fu

Instructor contact information
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Location and class times:
Mondays, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Dunbar 2203

Target students:
Anyone who is interested in Chinese traditional music and instruments. There is no Chinese language proficiency requirement.

Required texts
Class materials may be provided or suggested during the course.

Course description
Through Chinese traditional music appreciation, instrument introduction and teaching, this course will teach you about Chinese traditional music and Chinese culture. Chinese traditional music is a traditional Chinese art whose long history stretches back more than three thousand years. It has its own unique systems of musical notation, as well as musical tuning and pitch, musical instruments and styles. High Mountains and Flowing Streams, Early Spring Snow and Late Autumn Leaves, all are part of Chinese traditional music.

Are you ready to begin this fun, melodious and fascinating musical adventure? Let's get started!

Course objectives

1. Learn to appreciate the beauty of Chinese traditional music
2. Understand the core spirit of Chinese culture
3. Learn to play one or two Chinese traditional instruments
4. Acquire some basic Chinese language.

Modes of instruction

Face to face course delivery and hands-on practice

Course expectations

In order to receive the greatest benefit from your participation in this course, you are expected to fully participate in class and learn how to play the instruments with interest and enthusiasm.

Tentative schedule:

Lesson 1 (May 17): Overall introduction to Chinese music (including history, style, main aspects of a Chinese orchestra, etc).

Lesson 2 (May 24): Wind instruments (categories, physical structure, characteristics, skills, and representative music).

Lesson 3 (June 7): Chinese bamboo flute, Hulusi and Bawu (detailed introduction and demonstration).

Lesson 4 (June 14): Plucked instruments (categories, physical structure, characteristics, skills, and representative music).

Lesson 5 (June 21): Yangqin and Guzheng (detailed introduction and demonstration).

Lesson 6 (June 28): String instruments (categories, physical structure, characteristics, skills, representative music).