**HIS 350L / ANS 372 / WGS 340**  
**WOMEN AND GENDER IN CHINA**

Fall 2011  
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**Office Hour: Wed. 1:00-3:00 pm; Fri. 1:00-2:00 pm**

**Course description:**

This course examines women and gender in China from imperial times to the present. Major themes include the changing conceptions of masculinity and femininity in Chinese cultural and religious contexts; gender roles and inequalities in the patriarchal family and society; the varying discourse on women and gender in the modern period; women's dilemma in the Chinese Revolution; new challenges to women and new conceptions of gender and sexuality during the reform era since the 1980s. There is no prerequisite for attending this course, but some background in Chinese history is recommended.

**Readings:**


**Assignments and grading:**

1) Class participation (20%): This is an undergraduate seminar with a substantial writing component. You are expected to finish the weekly reading assignments before class and actively participate in discussion. To prepare for the discussion, write a brief note (one page, double-spaced) of the assigned readings. Your weekly note should summarize the main argument of the reading, make your own comments, and raise a question for class discussion. You are expected to write 5 to 7 weekly reports during the semester and turn in each of them to the instructor before the class starts.

2) Mid-term and final examination (15% each, 30% total): The mid-term exam is on October 19, and the final exam on December 7 (tentative).

3) Research paper (40%): You are also expected to write a paper of 10-15 double-spaced pages, on a topic of your choice and with the instructor's consent. The paper is due and to be presented in class on November 30.

4) Attendance (10%): Students are expected to attend all class meetings and are responsible for signing in on an attendance sheet to be distributed during each class. More than two absences will adversely affect one's final grade, 3% for each missed class and up to 10%.
Schedule:

**Aug 24  Gender and Gender Roles in Early China**

Ebrey, *The Inner Quarters*, Chap. 1 “Separating the Sexes”

Wang, *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture*, Parts One and Two:
2. The Book of Odes
4. The Canon of Documents
5. The Record of Rites
6. Analects of Confucius
7. Daodejing
13. Mencius
14. Zhuangzi
17. The Yellow Emperor’s Classic of Internal Medicine
23. Luxuriant Gems of the Spring and Autumn
24. Comprehensive Discussions in the White Tiger Hall

**Aug 31  Women in the Tradition of Confucianism**

Wang, *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture*, Parts Three and Four:
21. Stratagems of the Warring States
22. Biographies of Women
25. Lessons for Women
29. A New Account of Tales of the World
30. New Songs from a Jade Terrace
31. Family Instructions to the Yan Clan
32. The Ballad of Mulan
42. The Analects for Women
46. The Book of Filial Piety
49. Precepts for Family Life

**Sept 7  Women and Religion**

Wang, *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture*, Part Five:
34. The Forty-Two Chapters Sutra
35. The Sutra of the Teaching of Vimalakirti
36. The Story of Dragon King’s Daughter
37. Guanyin Chapter of the Lotus Sutra
40. Tang Epitaphs for Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist Women
41. Reflections on Things at Hand and Further Reflections on Things at Hand
44. The Daoist Goddess, Queen Mother of the West

**Sept 14  Marriage in Traditional China**

Ebrey, *The Inner Quarters*:
Chap. 2 Meanings of Marriage
Chap. 3 Making a Match
Chap. 4 Rites and Celebrations
Chap. 5 Dowries
Chap. 11 Second Marriages
Chap. 12 Concubines
Chap. 13 Continuing the Family Through Women

Wang, *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture*, Part Five:
47. The Story of Yingying
48. The Story of Miss Li

**Sept 21 Women in the Traditional Family**

Ebrey, *The Inner Quarters*:
Chap. 6 Upper-Class Wives as Inner Helpers
Chap. 7 Women’s Work Making Cloth
Chap. 8 Husband-Wife Relations
Chap. 9 Motherhood
Chap. 10 Widowhood
Chap. 14 Adultery, Incest, and Divorce
Chap. 15 Reflections on Women, Marriage, and Change

**Sept 28 Feminism in Modern China**

Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*:
Chap. 1 Creating a Feminist Discourse
Chap. 2 A Case of Circulating Feminism: The Ladies’ Journal


**Oct 5 Feminists under the Republic**

Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*:
Chap. 3 Forgotten Heroines
Chap. 4 Lu Lihua
Chap. 5 Zhu Su’e
Chap. 6 Wang Yiwei
Chap. 7 Chen Yongsheng
Chap. 8 Huang Dinghui

**Oct 12 Movie**

**Oct 19 Mid-term Exam**
Oct 26  
**Women and Gender under Mao (I)**

Zhong, *Some of Us*:
Zhong, “Introduction”
Zhang, “In a World Together yet Apart”
Zheng, “Call Me ‘Qingnian’…”
Chen, “From ‘Lighthouse’…”


Nov 2  
**Women and Gender under Mao (II)**

Zhong, *Some of Us*:
Di, “My Wandering Years”
Jin, “Times Have Changed”
Wang, “Gender Consciousness”
Zhong, “Between ‘Lixiang’ and Childhood Dreams”
Zhen, “The Production of Senses”
Wei, “Congratulations, It’s a Girl”

Nov 9  
**The Reform Era (I): Growing Up Female**

Honig and Hershatter. *Personal Voices*:
Chap. 1. Growing Up Female
Chap. 2. The Pleasures of Adornment and the Dangers of Sexuality

(Proposal of research paper due)

Nov 16  
**The Reform Era (II): Women in the Family and at Work**

Honig and Hershatter. *Personal Voices*:
Chap. 3. Making a Friend: Changing Patterns of Courtship
Chap. 4. Marriage
Chap. 5. Family Relations
Chap. 6. Divorce
Chap. 7. Women and Work
Chap. 8. Violence Against Women
Chap. 9. Feminist Voices

Nov 23  
**Challenges in the New Millennia**


Nov 30  
**Presentation of research papers**

Dec 7  
**Final exam (7:00-10:00 pm, tentative schedule)**