HIS 350L / ANS 372 / WGS 340

WOMEN AND GENDER IN CHINA

Fall 2011
Wed. 3:00-6:00 p.m.
GAR 2.112
Office Hour: Wed. 1:00-3:00 pm; Fri. 1:00-2:00 pm

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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:

Robin Wang, *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture (*Hackett Publishing Company, 2003)
Patricia Ebrey, *The Inner Quarters: Marriage and the Lives of Chinese Women in the Sung Period. (*University of California Press, 1993)
Zheng Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment: Oral and Textual Histories (*University of California Press, 1999)
Leslie Chang, *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China* (Spiegel & Grau, 2009)
Emily Honig and Gail Hershatter. *Personal Voices: Chinese Women in the 1980's. (*Stanford University Press,1988)
Xueping Zhong*, Some of Us: Chinese Women Growing up in the Mao Era.* (Rutgers University Press, 2001)

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. Reflctions 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

Gail Hershatter, "Courtesans and Streetwalkers: The Changing Discourses on Shanghai Prostitution, 1890-1949," *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, Vol. 3, No. 2. (Oct., 1992), pp. 245-269.

Philip Huang, "Women's Choices under Guomindang Law: Marriage, Divorce, and Adultery" in Huang, *Code, Custom, and Legal Practice in China,* pp. 180-200.

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 'Lighthourse'…"

Huaiyin Li, "Life Course, Labor Remuneration, and Gender Inequality in a Chinese Agrarian Collective," *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 2, pp. 277-303, April 2005

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

Leslie Chang, *Factory Girls*, Chapters 1-15.

Nov 30 Presentation of research papers

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