

WOMEN AND GENDER IN CHINA

FALL 2018

MWF 11.45-12.35

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Office hours: Monday 1-2 pm; Wednesday 1-3 pm

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Women and Gender in China explores the social construction of gender and sexuality in late imperial and modern China (1700-present). In order to provide students with an historical context in which they can describe and analyze the historical development of gender-related notions in China, the course traces how Chinese women from different social classes and ethnic backgrounds experienced the transition from imperial to modern, and socialist to neoliberal phases of Chinese history while their bodies and labor were subject to competing but similarly patriarchal claims of the state, family and male sexuality. The course will also include a discussion of Chinese queer theories and identities for the same historical period.

The course will begin with a discussion of how female sexuality was institutionally defined in imperial China through rape laws and a chastity cult, as well as the impact of the practice of prostitution and contradictory debates on feminine virtue. It will furthermore include an inquiry into how female labor gained different meanings in Confucian and revolutionary China, analyses of the works in which a new woman was composed in response to the needs of nation-building, and an explanation of how these multifarious female experiences gave birth to a distinct feminist radicalism at the conjunction of local and global forces. The course will end with an elaboration on the history of queer identities and contemporary LGBTQ activism.

Over the course of the semester, we will read multiple original texts, in addition to academic articles and book sections that will lead us into a systematic elaboration of gender and sexuality via the historical perspective. By the end of the semester, students will be able to utilize the methodologies offered in these secondary sources to formulate their own inquiries into the constitution of gender relations and categories in changing sociopolitical contexts. In addition to learning about the multiplicity of gender experiences in China, students will also be able to deconstruct original texts in order to analyze inherent assumptions and propositions on women, gender, and sexuality.

Course requirements

15% Attendance and participation

15% Essay I (4 pages)

20% Essay II (5 pages)

10% Leading a discussion section

40% Final paper

Participation and Attendance: This course requires active participation of all students. You are expected to attend classes regularly with required readings completed before each meeting.

Essays: (double space, 12-point fonts) For two essay assignments, students will answer a question given by the instructor. These are not a research paper and no external source is allowed.

Leading Discussion: You are responsible to facilitate one of the class discussions (mostly on Fridays). Schedule and assignment will be made by the instructor.

Final Paper: At the end of the semester, students will submit a final paper, using the sources on the syllabus. You need the consent of the instructor for additional sources. Final paper will be 10-12 pages, double-spaced, with 12-point fonts. No late paper will be accepted unless a medical emergency causes a delay.

Suggested paper topics: Western and Chinese concepts of gender and sexuality, chastity and gender norms in late imperial China, Chinese approaches to rape and prostitution, foot binding and sexuality, women's education, women and modernity, gender politics in the service of nationalism, Maoism, socialism and feminism, gendered division of labor, gender and migration, gender and ethnicity, queer identities and activism.

Accommodations

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Course Plan and Weekly Readings

Week 1

Aug 22: Introduction

Aug 24: What is gender?

Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." *American Historical Review* 91 (1986): 1053-75.

Week 2

Aug 27: Discussing gender and sexuality in a Chinese context

Wang Zheng and Gail Hershatter, "Chinese History: A Useful Category of Gender Analysis." *American Historical Review* 113, no. 5 (Dec 2008): 1404-1421.

Aug 29: Chinese Women in Western Eyes

Jinhua Emma Teng, "The Construction of the 'Traditional Chinese Woman' in the Western Academy: A Critical Review." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 22, no. 1 (Autumn 1996): 115-151.

Patricia Ebrey, "Gender and Sinology: Shifting Western Interpretations of Footbinding, 1300-1890." *Late Imperial China*, no. 2 (1999): 1-34.

Aug 31: Discussion

Jonathan Spence, *Chan's Great Continent: China in Western Minds*, New York: Norton & Company, 1998, pp. 101-121.

Week 3

Sep 5: Chastity

Janet M. Theiss, *Disgraceful Matters: The Politics of Chastity in Eighteenth-Century China*, Part I, The Chastening State: The Qing Chastity Cult in Ritual, Law, and Statecraft, pp. 17-54

Sep 7: Rape

Vivien W. Ng, "Ideology and Sexuality: Rape Laws in Qing China," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 46, no. 1, (1987): 57-70.

Vivien W. Ng, "Sexual Abuse of Daughters-in-Law in Qing China: Cases from Xing'an Huilan," *Feminist Studies*, vol. 20, no 2, (1994): 373-391.

Week 4

Sep 10: Prostitution

Gail Hershatter, "Modernizing Sex, Sexing Modernity: Prostitution in Early Twentieth Century Shanghai," in *Chinese Femininities/ Chinese Masculinities*, ed. Susan Brownell and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, pp. 199-225.

Sep 12: Concubines and Courtesans

Catherine Vance Yeh, "Playing with the Public: Late Qing Courtesans and Their Opera Singer Lovers," in *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China*, ed. Goodman and Larson, pp. 145-168.

Sep 14: Discussion

Joan Judge, *The Precious Raft of History*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008, "The Regime of Feminine Virtue," pp. 29-83.

--- First paper prompt ---

Week 5

Sep 17: Footbinding

Dorothy Ko, *Cinderella's Sisters: A Revisionist History of Foot Binding*, chapters 1 and 5, pp. 9-37; pp. 145-186.

Sep 19: Ideal Wife

Harriet Evans, "Past, Perfect or Imperfect: Changing Images of Ideal Wife," *Chinese Femininities/ Chinese Masculinities*, ed. Susan Brownell and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, pp. 335-360.

Sep 21: Discussion

Jieyu Liu, *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Chinese Companies: Beauties at Work*, London: Palgrave, 2017, "Marriage and Family," pp. 123-141.

Week 6

Sep 24: Women's Labor in Imperial China

Francesca Bray, *Technology, Gender and History in Imperial China: Great Transformations Reconsidered*, London: Routledge, 2013, "Women's Work and Women's Place: Textiles and Gender," pp. 93-120.

Sep 26: Work and Virtue

Kenneth Pomeranz, "Women's Work and the Economics of Respectability," in *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China*, pp. 239-263.

Sep 28: Discussion

He-Yin Zhen, "On the Question of Women's Labor" in *The Birth of Chinese Feminism: Essential Texts in Transnational Theory*, ed. Liu, Karl and Ko, pp. 72-91.

--- First essays due ---

Week 7

Oct 1: Women's Labor in Revolutionary China

Gail Hershatter, *Women in China's Long Twentieth Century*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007, "Labor," pp. 51-78.

Oct 3: Women of the Revolution

Jin Yihong, "Rethinking the 'Iron Girls': Gender and Labour during the Chinese Revolution," *Gender and History* 18, no. 3 (2006): 613-634.

Oct 5: Discussion

Gail Hershatter, "Virtue at Work: Rural Shaanxi Women Remember the 1950s," in *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China*, pp. 309-328.

Week 8

Oct 8: Ethnic Women

James A. Millward, "A Uyghur Muslim in Qianlong's Court: The Meaning of the Fragrant Concubine," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 53, no. 2 (May 1994): pp. 427-458.

Kara Abramson, "Gender, Uyghur Identity, and the Story of Nuzugum," *the Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 71, No. 4 (2012), pp. 1069-1091

Oct 10: Gender and Ethnicity

Luisa Schein, "Gender and Internal Orientalism in China," in *Chinese/Femininities/Chinese Masculinities*, ed. Brownell and Wasserstrom, pp. 385-411.

Harriet Evans, "Defining Difference: The Scientific Construction of Sexuality and Gender in the People's Republic of China." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 20, no. 2 (1995): 357-394.

Week 9

Oct 15: Educated Women in Imperial China

Susan Mann, *Talented Women of the Zhang Family*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007, "Wang Caipin, Governess," pp. 130-164.

Oct 17: Nation and Mothers

Joan Judge, *The Precious Raft of History*, "Wise Mothers and Mothers of Citizens," pp. 107-138.

Oct 19: Discussion

Liang Qichao, "On Women's Education," in *The Birth of Chinese Feminism: Essential Texts in Transnational Theory*, ed. Liu, Karl and Ko, pp. 189-204.

Qiu Jin, "Stones of the Jingwei Bird" in *Writing Women in Modern China*, ed. Dooling and Torgeson, 1998.

--- Second essay prompt ---

Week 10

Oct 22: The New Women in Historical Perspective

Ying Hu, "Naming the First 'New Woman,'" in *Rethinking the 1898 Reform Period: Political and Cultural Change in Late Qing China*, ed. Karl and Zarrow, pp. 180-211.

Oct 24: Women, Family, and the State

Tani Barlow, "Theorizing Woman: *Funu, Guojia, Jiating* (Chinese women, Chinese state, Chinese Family)," in *Body, Subject and Power in China*, ed. Zito and Barlow, pp. 253-289.

Oct 26: Discussion

Ying Hu, *Tales of Translation: Composing the New Women in China, 1899-1918*, "Introduction," pp. 1-21.

Week 11

Oct 29: Gender, Work, and Migration

Wang Fang, "Gendered Migration and the Migration of Genders in Contemporary China," in *Redrawing Boundaries: Work, Households, and Gender in China*, ed. Entwisle and Herderson, pp. 231-244.

Oct 31: Gendered Labor in Reform China

Pun Ngai, "Becoming Dagongmei (Working Girls): The Politics of Identity and Difference in Reform China," *The China Journal* 42 (Jul 1999): 1-18.

Nov 2: Discussion

--- Second essay due ---

Week 12

Nov 5: History of Homosexuality in China

Susan Mann, *Gender and Sexuality in Modern Chinese History*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011, "Same-sex relationships and transgendered performance," pp. 137-153.

Bret Hinsch, *Passions of Cut Sleeve: The Male Homosexual Tradition in China*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990, "Reflections at the End of a Tradition," pp. 139-161.

Nov 7: Queer Identities in Modern China

Petrus Liu, *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas*, Raleigh: Duke University Press, 2015, "Chinese Queer Theories," pp. 34-84.

Nov 9: Discussion

Week 13

Nov 14: The Birth of Chinese Feminism

Karl, Liu, Ko, *The Birth of Chinese Feminism: Essential Texts in Transnational Theory*, ed. Liu, Karl and Ko, "The Historical Context," pp. 27-50.

Nov 16: Discussion

He-Yin Zhen, "On the Question of Women's Liberation" in *The Birth of Chinese Feminism: Essential Texts in Transnational Theory*, ed. Liu, Karl and Ko, pp. 53-71.

He-Yin Zhen, "The Feminist Manifesto," in *Birth of Chinese Feminism*, pp. 179-186.

Week 14-15

Nov 19

Office hour for final papers

Nov 26: Feminist Politics in Revolutionary China

Gail Hershatter, *The Gender of Memory: Rural Women and China's Collective Past*, chapter 4: Activist, pp. 96-128.

Nov 28: Maoism and Feminism

Wang Zheng, "Maoism, Feminism, and the UN Conference on Women," *Journal of Women's History* 8, no. 4 (1997): 126-152.

Nov 30: Discussion

Week 16

Dec 3: Feminist Radicalism in Contemporary China

Li Xiaojiang, "With What Discourse Do We Reflect on Chinese Women? Thoughts on Transnational Feminism in China," in *Spaces of their Own: Women's Public Sphere in Transnational China*, ed. Yang, pp. 261-277.

Dec 5: Concluding Remarks