

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

Spring 2014
TTh. 3:30-5:00 p.m.
GAR 1.126
Office Hour: TTh 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Huaiyin Li
Office: GAR 3.202
Phone: 475 7910
Email: hli@utexas.edu

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) Weekly report (10%): This is an undergraduate seminar with a substantial writing component. You are expected to finish the weekly reading assignments before class and write a one-page report on the readings. Your report should summarize the main arguments of the reading, make your own comments, and raise a question for class discussion. You are expected to write 5 reports during the semester and turn in each of them to the instructor before the class starts on Tuesday (10%).
- 2) Class participation (10%): your active participation in class discussion is an essential requirement.
- 3) Mid-term and final exams (15% each, 30% total): The mid-term is on March 6, and the final is on May 7.
- 3) Research paper (40%): You are 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 April 22 and 24.
- 4) Attendance (10%): Students are expected to attend all class meetings and are responsible for signing in on an attendance sheet during each class. You are allowed one unexcused absence; additional absences will adversely affect your final grade, 2% for each missed class and up to 10%.

Schedule:

Jan 14 & 16 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

Jan 21 & 23 Women in the Tradition of Confucianism

Wang, *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture*, Parts Three and Four:

22. Biographies of Women
23. Luxuriant Gems of the Spring and Autumn
24. Comprehensive Discussions in the White Tiger Hall
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
41. Reflections on Things at Hand and Further Reflections on Things at Hand
42. The Analects for Women
46. The Book of Filial Piety
49. Precepts for Family Life

Jan 28 & 30 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
44. The Daoist Goddess, Queen Mother of the West

Feb 4 & 6 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

Feb 11 & 13 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

Feb 18 & 20 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

Feb 25 & 27 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

Mar 4 Women and Society in Republican China

Philip Huang, "Women's Choices under the Law: Marriage, Divorce, and Illicit Sex in the Qing and the Republic," *Modern China*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (Jan. 2001), pp. 3-58.

Antonia Finnane, "What Should Chinese Women Wear?: A National Problem," *Modern China*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Apr., 1996), pp. 99-131.

Mar 6 Mid-term Exam

[Spring Break]

Mar 4 & 6 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'..."

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

Mar 25 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"

Mar 27 Movie

Apr 1 & 3 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)

Apr 8 & 10 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

Apr 15 & 17 Challenges in the New Millennia

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

Apr 22 & 24 Presentation of research papers

May 7 Final exam (2:00-5:00 pm, same room)