

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

Fall 2014
Th. 3:30-6:60 p.m.
GAR 1.134
Office Hour: Thur. 1-3 pm, Fri. 12:30-1:30 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);
Gail Hershatler, *The Gender of Memory: Rural Women and China's Collective Past* (University of California Press, 2011);
Emily Honig and Gail Hershatler. *Personal Voices: Chinese Women in the 1980's* (Stanford University Press, 1988);
Leslie Chang, *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China* (Spiegel & Grau, 2009).

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 points of the reading, make your own comments, and raise a question for class discussion. You are expected to write 5-7 reports during the semester and turn in each of them to the instructor before the class starts (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 October 16, and the final is on December 15.
- 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 presented in class on December 4.
- 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:

Aug. 28 Gender and Gender Roles in Early China

Wang, *Images of Women in Chinese Thought and Culture*, Parts One and Two:

2. The Book of Odes
4. The Canon of Documents
6. Analects of Confucius
7. Daodejing
13. Mencius
14. Zhuangzi
17. The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine

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

Sept. 4 Women in the Tradition of Confucianism

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

5. The Record of Rites
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

Sept. 11 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

Sept. 18 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. 25 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

Oct. 2 Feminism and Feminists in Republican China (I)

- Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*:
- Chap. 1 Creating a Feminist Discourse
 - Chap. 2 A Case of Circulating Feminism: The Ladies' Journal
 - Chap. 3 Forgotten Heroines
 - Chap. 4 Lu Lihua

Oct. 9 Feminism and Feminists in Republican China (II)

- Wang, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*:
- Chap. 5 Zhu Su'e
 - Chap. 6 Wang Yiwei
 - Chap. 7 Chen Yongsheng
 - Chap. 8 Huang Dinghui

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.

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Oct. 16 Mid-term

Movie: *Raise the Red Lantern*

Oct. 23 Women and Gender under Mao (I)

- Hershatter, *The Gender of Memory*:
- Chap. 1 Frames
 - Chap. 2 No One is Home

- Chap. 3 Widow
- Chap. 4 Activist

Oct. 30 Women and Gender under Mao (II)

Hershatter, *The Gender of Memory*:

- Chap. 5 Farmer
- Chap. 6 Midwife
- Chap. 7 Mother
- Chap. 8 Model
- Chap. 9 Laborer
- Chap. 10 Narrator

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. 6 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
- Chap. 3. Making a Friend: Changing Patterns of Courtship
- Chap. 4. Marriage

(Proposal of research paper due)

Nov. 13 The Reform Era (II): Women in the Family and at Work

Honig and Hershatter. *Personal Voices*:

- Chap. 5. Family Relations
- Chap. 6. Divorce
- Chap. 7. Women and Work
- Chap. 8. Violence Against Women
- Chap. 9. Feminist Voices

Movie: *The Story of Qiu Ju*

Nov. 20 Challenges in the New Millennia

Leslie Chang, *Factory Girls*, Part I; Part II.

Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving)

Dec. 4 Presentation of research papers

Dec. 15 Final exam (9:00-12:00 noon, same room)