

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

Fall 2015
Thursday 3:30-6:30 p.m.
GAR 2.112
Office Hour: Thur. 1:30-3:00 pm, Fri. 3:00-4:00 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.

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

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 15, and the final is on December 11.
- 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 3.

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%.

Note: 1) Plus/minus grades will be assigned for the final grade.

2) Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Schedule:

Aug. 27 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. 3 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. 10 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. 17 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. 24 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. 1 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. 8 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.

Oct. 15 Mid-term

Movie: *Raise the Red Lantern*

Oct. 22 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. 29 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. 5 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. 12 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. 19 Challenges in the New Millennia

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

Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving)

Dec. 3 Presentation of research papers

Dec. 11 Final exam (9:00-12:00 noon, same room)