

Chinese Women's Studies

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Course Description:

In an era of modernization and globalization, contemporary Chinese women are experiencing rapid changes in every aspect of their lives. Yet, the heritages of the revolutionary era and the influences of traditional Chinese culture cannot simply be written off in their lives. Therefore, for all Chinese women, this is an era of change and continuity as well. The intertwining forces of traditions, revolutions, the state, and the market have been shaping the private and public spheres for Chinese women.

This course covers major topics and issues about Chinese women. It first introduces the history of women's movement and the recent development of feminism in China. Then the change and continuity of women's sexuality, identity, marriage, and family of Chinese women throughout the 20th century are discussed, paying special attention to the impacts of the socialist revolution and the market transition. Furthermore, the course discusses gender divisions of labor in urban and rural China and the experience of rural-to-urban women migrants in the reform era in order to capture (at least partially) the change and continuity of some Chinese women's lives under the impacts (or lack of) of development, modernization, urbanization, and globalization. At the end of course, the issues on women's body and violence against women are discussed.

Readings:

All the required readings are available electronically in Dropbox. Please check the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7bh8w4wnzj2qw80/AACnwVf9ZwlgHudayoVvxQLXa?dl=0>

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to help the students to develop a basic understanding of Chinese women's status, to explore the underlying social, economic, political and cultural factors that have been shaping Chinese women's life experiences, and to learn how some characteristics of women's sexuality, identity, marriage, family, and work have been maintained, whilst gradual or even radical changes have taken place in contemporary China.

Course Requirements:

The final grade will consist of four components: class participation and discussion, a reflective writing, a creative writing, and a research project.

Class Participation and Discussion (20%)

The course will follow a lecture-discussion format. Students are expected to attend all classes. To make sure that all students come to class prepared to discuss, students are

required to submit one-page summary and comment on the assigned readings by Tuesday noon each week.

Reflective Writing (25%)

For the reflective writing (5-page long, double spaced), the students are expected to observe the Chinese society with gender perspectives and record your personal reactions, feelings, and thoughts toward the facts you observed. Please reflect on the meaning of the observation to YOU, especially for your better understanding of gender relations and women's situations in China.

Creative Writing (25%)

The students are required to write a fictitious story (5-page long, double-spaced) to reflect Chinese women's experiences in a rapidly changing society. Please take full advantage of the class readings so that the story is based on the reality and represents the complexities of women's daily lives in contemporary China.

Research Project (30%)

For the research project, the students are allowed to choose any topic that is related to Chinese women or gender issues in China and agreed upon with the instructor. Students are expected to develop their own ideas about the selected topic in the project and write a completed paper (10-page long, double-spaced). In addition, each student will present her/his research project to the class at the end of the semester.

Course Policies:

Cheating, or engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will be dealt with maximum punishment under university policies. The use of websites or library materials without proper citation is considered academic dishonesty.

Necessary accommodations will be made for any documented physical or learning disability. Please inform the instructor by the first day of class.

Course Calendar:

Week 1: Overview

Readings:

United Nations Development Programme, 2005, *En Route to Equality: A Gender Review of National MDG Reports*. New York.

Film:

George, Peter and Christopher McCullough, 2006, *China Unbound: A Woman's Place*, National Geographic Video.

Week 2: Women's Movement and Feminism

Readings:

Yang, Mayfair, 1999, "From Gender Erasure to Gender Difference: State Feminism, Consumer Sexuality, and Women's Public Sphere in China," pp. 35-67 in Mayfair

Mei-hui Yang (ed.), *Spaces of Their Own: Women's Public Sphere in Transnational China*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Leung, Alicia S.M., 2003, "Feminism in Transition: Chinese Culture, Ideology and the Development of Women's Movement in China", *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*, 20:359-374.

Ko, Dorothy and Zheng Wang, 2006, "Introduction: Translating Feminisms in China," *Gender and History*, 18(3):463-471.

Wang, Zheng, 2010, "Creating a Socialist Feminist Cultural Front: Women of China (1949-1966)", *The China Quarterly*, 204(December):827-849.

Film:

George, Peter and Christopher McCullough, 2006, *China Unbound: Sex and the Revolution*, National Geographic Video.

Week 3: Women and Sexuality

Readings:

Evans, Harriet, 1997, *Women and Sexuality in China: Female Sexuality and Gender since 1949*, Chapters 2 & 3, pp. 33-81, New York: Continuum.

Evans, Harriet, 2008, "Sexed Bodies, Sexualized Identities, and the Limits of Gender", *China Information*, XXII(2): 361-386.

Rocha, Leon Antonio, 2010, "Xing: The Discourse of Sex and Human Nature in Modern China", *Gender & History*, 22(3): 603-628.

Ding, Yu and Petula Sik Ying Ho, 2013, "Sex Work in China's Pearl River Delta: Accumulating Sexual Capital as a Life-advancement Strategy", *Sexualities*, 16(1/2): 43-60.

Week 4: Women and Identity

Readings:

Barlow, Tani E., 1994, "Politics and Protocols of Funu: (Un)Making National Women," pp. 339-359 in Christina K. Gilmartin, Gail Hershatter, Lisa Rofel, and Tyrene White (eds), *Engendering China: Women, Culture, and the State*. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: Harvard University Press.

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

Chan, Zenobia C. Y., 2003, "My Doctoral Journey: A Chinese Woman's Struggles", *Affilia*, 18(4):479-484.

Wang, Fengxian, 2012, "The 'Good Wife and Wise Mother' as a Social Discourse of Gender", *Chinese Studies in History*, 45(4):58-70.

Week 5: Fall Break

Week 6: Women and Marriage

******The reflective writing is due.******

Readings:

Tan, Lin and Susan E. Short, 2004, "Living as Double Outsiders: Migrant Women's Experiences of Marriage in a County-Level City," pp.151-174 in Arianne M. Gaetano and Tamara Jacka (eds.), *On the Move: Women and Rural-to-Urban Migration in Contemporary China*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Friedman, Sara, 2005, "The Intimacy of State Power: Marriage, Liberation, and Socialist Subjects in Southeastern China", *American Ethnologist*, 32(2):312-327.

Zhang, Hong, 2009, "Labor-Migration, Gender, and the Rise of Neo-Local Marriages in the Economic Boom Town of Dongguan, South China", *Journal of Contemporary China*, 18(61):639-656.

Xiao, Hui Faye, 2010, "'Love is a Capacity': The Narrative of Gendered Self-development in *Chinese-Style Divorce*", *Journal of Contemporary China*: 19(66):735-753.

Zheng, Weijun, et al., 2011, "Detraditionalisation and Attitudes to Sex Outside Marriage in China", *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 13(5):497-511.

Film:

Chinese-Style Divorce, (in Chinese, without English subtitles)

Week 7: Women and Work

Readings:

Greenhalgh, Susan. 1994. "De-Orientalizing the Chinese Family Firm." *American Ethnologist* 21(4):746-775.

Maurer-Fazio, Margaret, et al., 2007, "An Ocean Formed from One Hundred Rivers: The Effects of Ethnicity, Gender, Marriage, and Location on Labor Force Participation in Urban China", *Feminist Economics*, 13(3-4):159-187.

Zhang, Yuping, et al., 2008, "Gender-Based Employment and Income Differences in Urban China: Considering the Contributions of Marriage and Parenthood", *Social Forces*, 86(4):1529-1560.

Zhang Qian Forrest and Zi Pan, 2011, "Women's Entry into Self-employment in Urban China: The Role of Family in Creating the Gendered Mobility Patterns", *World Development*, 40(6):1201-1212.

Week 8: Women and Development

Readings:

Jacka, Tamara, 2006, "Approaches to Women and Development in Rural China", *Journal of Contemporary China*, 15(49):585-602.

Pun, Ngai, 2007, "Gendering the Dormitory Labor System: Production, Reproduction, and Migrant Labor in South China", *Feminist Economics*, 13(3-4):239-258.

Hare, Denise, Li Yang and Daniel Englander, 2007, "Land Management in Rural China and its Gender Implications", *Feminist Economics*, 13(3-4):35-61.

Sargeson, Sally, 2008, "Women's Property, Women's Agency in China's 'New Enclosure Movement': Evidence from Zhejiang", *Development and Change*, 39(4):641-665.

Week 9: Women and Migration

Readings:

"My life as a Migrant Worker," by various migrant workers, 2004, pp.286-307 in Arianne M. Gaetano and Tamara Jacka (eds.), *On the Move: Women and Rural-to-Urban Migration in Contemporary China*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Liang, Zai and Chen, Yiu Por, 2004, "Migration and Gender in China: An Origin-Destination Linked Approach", *Economic Development and Culture Change*, 52(2):423-443.

May, Shannon, 2010, "Bridging Divides and Breaking Homes: Young Women's Life Cycle Labour Mobility as a Family Managerial Strategy", *The China Quarterly*, 204(December):899-920.

Connelly, Rachel, et al., 2010, "The Impact of Circular Migration on the Position of Married Women in Rural China", *Feminist Economics*, 16(1):3-41.

Film:

Lewis, Jonathan, 2007, *China from the Inside: Women of the Country*, KQED and Granada Televisions.

Week 10: Women and the Family Planning Policies

Readings:

Greenhalgh, Susan and Jiali Li, 1995, "Engendering Reproductive Policy and Practice in Peasant China: For a Feminist Demography of Reproduction, " *Signs*, 20(3):601-641.

Fong, Vanessa, 2002, "China's One-Child Policy and the Empowerment of Urban Daughters", *American Anthropologists*, 104(4):1095-1108.

Klasen, Stephan and Claudia Wink, 2003, "Missing Women: Revisiting the Debate, " *Feminist Economics*, 9(2-3):263-299.

Shi, Lihong, 2009, “‘Little Quilted Vests to Warm Parents’ Hearts’: Redefining the Gendered Practice of Filial Piety in Rural North-eastern China”, *China Quarterly*, 198:348-363.

Film:

Bronstein, Scott, 2005, *China’s Lost Girls*, National Geographic Video.

Week 11: Violence against Women

******The creative writing is due.******

Readings:

Zhao, Gracie Ming, 2003, "Trafficking of Women for Marriage in China: Policy and Practice," *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 3(1):83-102.

Xu, Xiao, et al., 2005, "Prevalence of and Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Violence in China," *American Journal of Public Health*, 95(1):78-85.

Tang, C So-Kum, et al., 2002, "Social Construction of Women as Legitimate Victims of Violence in Chinese Societies", *Violence against Women*, 8(8):968-996.

Zhang, Jie, 2010, “Marriage and Suicide among Chinese Rural Young Women”, *Social Forces*, 89(1):311-326.

“A Dramatic Decline in Suicides: Back from the Edge”, June 28, 2014, *The Economist*.

Week 12: Project Presentation

Week 13: Final Exam Week

******The research project is due.******