Tuesday, Thursday noon-1:20 pm

Fall 2014
CRN 17140/17141
189 PLC

Professor Goodman
Office: 331 McKenzie
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Office: Tu 2:45-3:45 (PLC 218)
Th 2:30-3:30 (McK 331)

HISTORY 497/597
MODERNITY AND GENDER IN CHINA

Description: When early 20th century Chinese reformers and revolutionaries thought about how to make China modern, they called for the radical transformation of Chinese gender roles. This course examines gender in revolutionary and post-revolutionary modern China. After a preliminary introduction to the centrality of gender in Chinese modernity, we examine texts, ideas, and practices that shaped gender in late imperial China. We then turn to the intertwined history of gender and political change, looking at theorists, participants and bystanders in the revolutions of the 20th century (republican, communist, and contemporary market reform). Readings include translated manifestos and memoirs of revolutionaries and reformers, and diverse oral histories. No prerequisites. Lecture, reading and discussion.

Objectives: By looking at radical shifts in gender in the context of China and political revolution, this class should enable you to question common assumptions about gender, and to think about connections between gender and class, colonialism, nationalism, anarchism, socialism, and global capitalism. Careful reading of primary sources will strengthen your familiarity with language, context, and critical interpretation while you also gain understanding of the modern history of gender and political transformation in China.

HIST 497 Requirements (Undergraduates): Attendance and active participation is required for success in this course. All readings should be completed for the date under which they appear in this syllabus. Grading reflects the expectation that all students read, think about, and discuss in class the assigned selections. A midterm and two papers are required. For your first paper you may choose EITHER Option A or B, due in the 3rd or 4th week of class, respectively (see schedule of classes below for descriptions of each option). A second paper on either Red Azalea or Three Inch Golden Lotus is due in the second half of the class.

HIST 597 Requirements (Graduates): Graduate students will participate in the regular Tu-Th classes, but will have additional separate meetings (with additional readings) as well as separate paper assignments (separate from the undergraduate class). In addition, graduate students will be asked to make in-class presentations. An (additional) graduate syllabus will be distributed.

Grading for History 497: Grades will be based on a midterm (25%), two papers (25% each), and active participation in class (25%--this means participation in discussion, not just attendance!). **Participation includes bringing a brief weekly written comment (a paragraph to one page) on readings to each Thursday class (or Tuesday, in the case of Thanksgiving week), prepared to turn in, as well as speaking in class. The written comment, and your oral
participation, should reflect your engagement with the reading. (An “A” in participation requires speaking about the topic and readings in way that contributes to an atmosphere of inquiry and learning. A “B” requires regular spoken participation and evident familiarity with the reading. “C” grade requires some participation.) Written participation comments will not be accepted late.

Guidelines for papers: Papers should be typed and double-spaced. You must complete Topic 1 option A or B, on the date specified, for your first paper. After the midterm, you may choose either paper option A or B for your second paper, also due on the dates specified. All papers should succinctly describe the source and its historical context, as well as address the questions specified in the paper topics listed above.

In Fairness: Absences or late assignments will only be excused in the event of documented illness. All work that you turn in must be your own. Any work submitted for credit that includes the words or ideas of anyone else must fully and accurately identify your source in a complete citation. If you are confused about this or do not understand the consequences of academic dishonesty at the UO—or the ethical issues behind these university policies—please read the UO plagiarism policy: http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/.

The following books are available for purchase. They are also on reserve at the library:

Dorothy Ko, Cinderella’s Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding (Berkeley, 2007)
Susan Mann, Precious Records: Women in China’s Long Eighteenth Century (Stanford, 1997)
Lydia Liu, Rebecca Karl, and Dorothy Ko, The Birth of Chinese Feminism: Essential Texts in Transnational Theory (Columbia, 2013)
Ida Pruitt, Daughter of Han (Stanford, 1945)
Wang Zheng, Women in the Chinese Enlightenment (Berkeley, 1999)
Yue Daiyun and Carolyn Wakeman, To the Storm (Berkeley, 1985)
Anchee Min, Red Azalea (New York, 1994)

There is, in addition, a required course packet that is available for purchase at the bookstore. Full citations for long readings in the course packet are provided in the class schedule in the event you wish to find the originals in the library.

CLASS SCHEDULE (the readings assigned for each class appear under the date of each class):

Week 1  
Sept 30  Images of Gender and China
Oct. 2  Gender and China: Considering the Bound Foot

Required Reading for Oct. 2 discussion:
•Dorothy Ko, Cinderella’s Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding (Berkeley: UC Press, 2007), pp. 9-68. Come prepared to discuss this!
Week 2  Oct 7  Introduction to Gender in China
Required reading for Oct. 7 discussion (both articles in packet, pp. 1-26):
• Joan Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” in Gender and the Politics of History (New York, 1994) 28-50. (in packet—come prepared to discuss)
• Susan Mann, Gender and Sexuality in Modern Chinese History (Cambridge, 2011), pp. 27-49. (packet)

Oct 9  Female Biography and Classical Representations of Gender
Required reading for Oct 9 discussion (read packet pp. 27-61 carefully):
Reading:  • Liu Hsiang, Lieh nü zhuan (Biographies of Eminent Women), Albert O’Hara, trans, Position of Woman in Early China, selections (packet)
• Ban Zhao, “Lessons for Women,” in Nancy Swann, Pan Chao: Foremost Woman Scholar of China (New York, 1931) 82-90 (packet)


Week 3  Oct 14 Women’s Virtue and the State
Reading:  • Mark Elvin, “Female Virtue and the State in China,” Past and Present 104, 111-152 (packet pp. 63-84—prepare for discussion)
• Mann, Precious Records, 19-44.

Oct 16  Gender in the Late Imperial Era
Reading:  • Mann, Precious Records, 45-75 143-177, 201-226 (for discussion)

*PAPER #1 Option A (3 pages). Due Oct 22 NOON, under my office door (331 McK)
Topic for Option A: Present and evaluate the late 19th/early 20th c. reformer Kang Youwei’s ideas of transformed gender relations, based on the reading below. Why does Kang want to change gender relations? (Think context). Do his ideas serve men and women equally well? How liberating are they?

Week 4  Oct 21 Changing Notions of Gender in the Late Qing, Early Feminism
Reading:  • Kang Youwei (K’ang Yu-wei), Datong shu (Ta T’ung Shu) [Book of the Great Community] (packet 85-114—be prepared to discuss)

Oct 23 Nationalist and Anarchist Revolutionaries: Qiu Jin and He-Yin Zhen
• He-Yin Zhen, selections, in Liu, et. al, Birth of Chinese Feminism, pp. 53-146; 169-184 (be prepared to discuss)

PAPER #1 Option B (3-4 pages). Due 5pm, Oct. 24, under my office door (353 McKenzie)
Topic for Option B (4 pages): Compare and contrast Kang Youwei’s ideas about gender transformation with those of either Qiu Jin or He-Yin Zhen. What is similar and what is
different? What is the importance of “China” in each vision? What are the specific ideas presented about men and women? Why do you think their visions differ?

**SHORT MIDTERM, following discussion. Includes readings and lectures through April 28.**

**Oct 30** *New Culture, May Fourth, and the New Woman*

Readings: Packet, pp. 119-141. Includes:
- Chen Duxiu, “The Way of Confucius and Modern Life” (packet)
- Mao Zedong, selections regarding the suicide of Miss Zhao, in Stuart Schram, ed. *Mao’s Road to Power*, v. 1 (packet—prepare for discussion)
- Lu Xun, “My Views on Chastity.” (packet)

**Week 6**

**Nov 4** *come prepared to discuss:*

**Nov 6** *Class Matters*

*come prepared to discuss* Pruitt, *Daughter of Han*, 142-end.

**Week 7**

**Nov 11** *NO CLASS MEETING*

Read: Honig, *Sisters and Strangers*, 1-93.

**Nov 13** *Gender and the Communist Revolution*

Read: Honig, 94-249. *Come prepared to discuss* Honig

Question for discussion: How did gender affect worker organization and worker identities, as described by Honig, in *Sisters and Strangers*? How did gender affect the efforts of communist organizers to mobilize workers?

**Week 8**

**Nov 18** *Gender and Communist Revolution, cont’d*
- Susan Glosser, ed., *Li Fengjin: How the New Marriage Law Helped Chinese Women Stand Up* (pamphlet, prepare to discuss).

**Nov 20** *Work and Family: Liberation for people in different categories*

Mi Zhao Presentation: *From Singing Girls to Revolutionary Artists*

*Read:* • Yue Daiyun and Carolyn Wakeman, *To the Storm*, 1-150.
Week 9  Nov 25 *Gender and Sexuality in the Cultural Revolution*

Nov. 27      THANKSGIVING

Week 10  Dec. 2 *Gender and Sexuality in the Cultural Revolution, cont’d*
Reading: •Anchee Min, *Red Azalea*, come prepared to discuss

Dec. 4 *Gender in Post-Mao China*
Film clip: *China Blues*

Your second and final paper assignment (5-7pp.) is due December 5. There will be a handout describing the paper options. There is no final exam.