**F16: HIST 4270: Topics in Modern Asia**

**Gender & Sexuality in Chinese History**

**Instructor:** Professor Norman Smith

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines constructs of gender and sexuality in Chinese history. Our study will follow a topical approach, with each week generally devoted to a selected subject or theme. We will focus on the late imperial, modern, and contemporary periods. This class is necessarily inter-disciplinary, highlighting analyses of primary and secondary sources. There are no language requirements for this course; all material will be provided either in English or in Chinese with English translation.

By the end of this course, you will have a broad sense of the field and of important scholarly works that have structured its current state. In most of our classes, we will analyse scholarly writings as well as Honours and MA theses. This activity is aimed at increasing your knowledge of this particular field of study but – *even more importantly* – sharpening your writing and critical thinking skills.

**COURSE ARRANGEMENTS**

The class meets twice a week. Each class typically consists of introductory comments by the instructor, two student presentations, and student-led class discussions. Regular attendance in the course is recommended for students to maximize their university experience. All students must come to class prepared to participate actively in discussion.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The final grade consists of four components:

1. Term Paper (20 page essay [50%] due December 2; and presentation [5%]), (55%)
2. Term Paper Outline, due October 26 (5%)
3. Required Readings Discussions (one page critical analysis of assigned materials, presentation, and leadership of class discussion) (two @ 10% each = 20%)
4. Seminar Participation (20%)

***\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.***