

**Gender and Sexuality in Chinese History, HIST 6370**  
**Fall 2015 MACS 301**  
**Mondays 2.30-5.20**

**Instructor:** Professor Norman Smith

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Office Hour: Mondays, 9.30-11.00. Students are welcome to consult with me at any time that is convenient outside the scheduled office hour.

**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 Honours theses, MA theses or PhD dissertations. This activity is aimed at increasing your knowledge of this particular field of study but – *even more importantly* – sharpening your writing skills, critical thinking, and awareness of what constitutes effective graduate-level written work.

**COURSE ARRANGEMENTS**

The class meets once 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%] and presentation [5%]), due December 4 (55%)
2. Term Paper Outline, due November 2 (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%)

## **COURSE READINGS**

Students are expected to complete the readings by the assigned times. Suggestions for additional reading will be given at each class. All of the readings can be found in Courselink – or the library system and internet, if preferred.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE / READINGS:**

#### **September 14: *Introductions, Chronology***

##### **September 21: *Genders***

- Barlow, Tani. "Theorizing *Funü*." In Tani Barlow. *The Question of Women in Chinese Feminism*, 37-63, 381-86. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.
- Kam, Louie and Louise Edwards. "Chinese Masculinity: Theorizing *Wen* and *Wu*." *East Asian History* 8 (December 1994): 135-148.
- Scholarly Presentation: Gail Hershatter. "Gender of Memory." Paper Presented at Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University (17 November 2006). Located at: <http://www.yale.edu/agrarianstudies/colloppapers/11hershatter.pdf>

##### **September 28: *Marriage***

- Mann, Susan. "Grooming a Daughter for Marriage: Brides and Wives in the Mid-Qing Period." In *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities*, eds. Susan Brownell and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, 93-119. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- PhD Dissertation: Cowden, Charlotte Lucia. "Balancing Rites and Rights." PhD Dissertation. Berkeley: University of California, 2011.

##### **October 5: *Views from the Qing***

- Mann, Susan. "The Male Bond in Chinese History and Culture." *The American Historical Review* 105 no. 5 (December 2000): 1600-1614.
- Sommer, Matthew. "Dangerous Males, Vulnerable Males, and Polluted Males." In *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities*, eds. Susan Brownell and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, 67-88. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- MA Thesis: Johnson, Carol Evelyn. "A History of the Life of Chinese Women." MA Thesis. Vancouver: University of British Columbia, 1974.

##### **October 19: *The Empress Dowager, Cixi***

- Backhouse, Sir Edmund Trelawny. "Summer Palace Nocturne: The Pastimes of Messalina." In Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse. *Décadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse*, 59-74. Hong Kong: Earnshaw Books, 2011.
- Chang, Jung. "In Retirement and Leisure" and "China After Empress Dowager." In Jung Chang. *Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern China*, 163-80, 371-73, 384. New York: Anchor Books.
- *Evil Women*. "Tzu-Hsi: China's Dragon Lady," 32-41. Leicester: Blitz Editions, 1993.
- MA Thesis: Chen, Dennis. "The Western Perception of Empress Dowager Cixi." MA Thesis. Victoria: University of Victoria, 2013.

### **October 26: Footbinding**

- Fairbank, John King and Merle Goldman. "Subjection of Women." In *China: A New History*, eds. John King Fairbank and Merle Goldman, 173-76. Cambridge: Bellknap Press, 2006.
- Ko, Dorothy. "The Body as Attire: Shifting Meanings of Footbinding in Seventeenth Century China." *Journal of Women's History* 8 no. 4 (Winter 1997): 8-27.
- Senior Honours Thesis: Conroy, Hannah. "Female Body Modification through Physical Manipulation." Helena, Montana: Carroll College, 2014.

### **November 2: The Republic**

- Lei, Jun. "Producing Norms, Defining Beauty: The Role of Science in the Regulation of the Female Body and Sexuality in *Liangyou* and *Furen Huabao*." In *Liangyou: Kaleidoscope Modernity and the Shanghai Global Metropolis, 1926-1945*, eds. Paul G. Pickowicz, Kuiyi Shen, and Yingjin Zhang, 111-31. Leiden: Brill, 2013.
- Wang, Hongjian. "Pillar of the Nation: Photographic Representation of 'Modern' Chinese Masculinity in *Liangyou*." In *Liangyou: Kaleidoscope Modernity and the Shanghai Global Metropolis, 1926-1945*, eds. Paul G. Pickowicz, Kuiyi Shen, and Yingjin Zhang, 161-77. Leiden: Brill, 2013.
- PhD Dissertation: Zhao, Ma. "On the Run: Women, City, and the Law in Beijing, 1937-1949." PhD Dissertation. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 2007.

### **November 9: Courtesans, Prostitution, Actresses**

- Henriot, Christian. "Chinese Courtesans in late Qing and early Republican Shanghai." *East Asian History* 8 (1994): 33-52.
- Hershatter, Gail. "Modernizing Sex, Sexing Modernity: Prostitution in Early-Twentieth-Century Shanghai." In *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities*, eds. Susan Brownell and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, 199-225. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- MA Thesis: Yuan, Zhou. "The Way to the 1930s' Shanghai Female Stardom: From the Pioneering Actresses of the Late Qing to the Popular Female Film Stars of the 1920s and 1930s." Oslo: University of Oslo, 2010.

### **November 16: Tongzhi**

- Dunstan, Helen. "If Chen Yun Had Written About Her 'Lesbianism': Rereading the Memoirs of a Bereaved Philanderer." *Asia Major, Third Series* 20 no. 2 (2007): 103-22.
- Kang, Wenqing. "Male Same-Sex Relations in Modern China." *positions* 18 no. 2 (2010): 489-510.
- Senior Honours Thesis: Leng, Rachel. "Chinese Comrade Literature, Queer Political Reality, and the *Tongzhi* Movement in Mainland China." Undergraduate Honours Thesis. Duke University, Durham, N.C., 2012.

### **November 23: Presentations**

#### **November 30: Literature**

- Liu, Lydia. "Invention and Intervention: The Making of a Female Tradition in Modern Chinese Literature." In *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities*, eds. Susan Brownell and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, 149-74. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- PhD Dissertation: Ho, Felicia Jiawen. "Full Spectrum of Selves in Modern Chinese Literature: From Lu Xun to Xiao Hong." PhD Dissertation. University of California, Los Angeles, 2012.

#### **December 4: Politics**

- MA Thesis: Cho, Allan. "The Hong Kong *Wuxia* Movie: Identity and Politics, 1966-76." Vancouver: University of British Columbia, 2004.
- Senior Honours Thesis: Johns, Jamie. "What Do Women Live For? *Women of China* and the All-China Women's Federation." Senior Undergraduate Thesis. New York: Columbia University, 2010.

#### **Term Paper**

This assignment is directed towards analysis of how gender and/or sexuality may be constructed in a specific time, place, person or event. The topic may be on a non-Chinese subject, but must be relevant to materials discussed in this course. Required length: 20 pages, **exclusive of** title page, endnotes and bibliography. In order to adequately analyse and contextualise the topic, students are expected to utilise at least twenty relevant primary and/or secondary sources. The "presentation" portion of this assignment will consist of a fifteen-minute presentation, followed by class discussion led by the presenter. Students will sign up for a presentation date during the first two weeks of classes. All papers are due on the last day of this class.

#### **REQUIRED READINGS ASSIGNMENT**

Student presentations (5 minutes) will consist of a critical evaluation of the session's required materials, to be followed by a student-led discussion. A one-page written critique of the required materials must be distributed to the entire class to supplement the presentation. Presenters will prepare questions for class discussion of the materials. Students will be graded on the one-page written critique, the quality of the presentation, and the class discussion questions. A sign-up sheet will be distributed during the first week of classes.