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

September 28: Marriage

October 5: Views from the Qing

October 19: The Empress Dowager, Cixi
October 26: Footbinding


November 2: The Republic


November 9: Courtesans, Prostitution, Actresses


November 16: Tongzhi

November 23: Presentations

November 30: Literature

December 4: Politics

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.