

WOMEN AND FAMILY IN CHINESE HISTORY
HIEA 137 Fall 2009

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This course explores the history of women and the family in China through the early twentieth century. We will discuss the traditional Chinese kinship and family structure, familial relations, ideas of female virtue, and women's roles and experiences that were conditioned by and shaped historical changes. We will read women's as well as men's writings to consider the question of how gender norms were propagated and contested at various historical periods. The course will be roughly chronological combined with a thematic approach, with each week focusing on a major topic. There are no prerequisites. If you wish to learn more about background information of Chinese history, you can consult a general textbook (for example, Patricia Buckley Ebrey's *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*).

Course Requirements

Readings for the course consist of primary documents and secondary literature. Other materials include slides and films. It is important that you read assigned materials carefully prior to the class meeting (see **SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS** for weekly readings.) There will be regular in-class discussions concentrating on the week's readings, which will give you opportunities to ask questions, make comments, and exchange ideas with your classmates. Please see me or email me when you have questions or suggestions related to the course.

Required Books (available for purchase at UCSD bookstore):

Patricia B. Ebrey. *The Inner Quarters: Marriage and the Lives of Chinese Women in the Sung Period*. (Berkeley, 1993)

Susan Mann and Yu-yin Cheng eds. *Under Confucian Eyes: Writings on Gender in Chinese History*. (Berkeley, 2001)

Susan Mann. *The Talented Women of the Zhang Family*. (Berkeley, 2007)

Ida Pruitt. *A Daughter of Han: The Autobiography of A Chinese Working Woman*. (1945)

In addition, a Course Reader should be purchased from University Readers. Please visit www.universityreaders.com/students for online purchase information.

All the required reading is on reserve in SSH library.

Grading Information:*

One 3 page reading report 15%. Turn in any Wednesday from week 2 to week 5. <i>Instructions for this assignment appear at the end of the syllabus.</i>
One 6 page paper 25%. Due 11/23. <i>Instructions TBA.</i>
Midterm 20%
Take-home final 30% <i>Study Guides for the midterm and the final TBA.</i>
Participation 10%

*Note except in cases of documented illness or emergency, no early or late exams will be granted, and late papers will be penalized. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor immediately about your emergency or illness.

* Papers should be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Arrange your time to meet the deadlines. Please take advantage of my office hours to discuss ideas for and approaches to your papers.

Academic Honesty

Your work in this class is expected to be the product of your own efforts. Plagiarism in writing assignments (i.e., copying from articles, books, internet papers, and other students' work, without specifically acknowledging the source) will not be tolerated and will lead to serious consequences. For more information on the UCSD policy on academic dishonesty, visit: <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>; for History department guidelines see <http://historyweb.ucsd.edu/pages/undergraduate/Current/plagiarism.htm>.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 Introduction

- 9/25 Questions, sources, and approaches
- 9/28 Documentary: *Small Happiness*/discussion
- 9/30 Yin/yang and inner/outer

Week 2 Early Female Images and Gender Norms

- 10/2 The good and the bad in *Lienü zhuan*
- 10/5 Ban Zhao and *Lessons for Women*
- 10/7 Mulan: the cross-dressing filial daughter/Discussion

Reader, #2, 3, 4, 6.
Under Confucian Eyes, 47-69.

Week 3 The Family

10/9 Kinship and the patrilineal family
10/12 Inheritance
10/14 Discussion

Reader, #1, 5.
Under Confucian Eyes, 118-132.
The Inner Quarters, 1-81.

Week 4 Marriage

10/16 Meanings of marriage
10/19 Patterns of marriage
10/21 Discussion

Reader, #7.
Under Confucian Eyes, 71-82, 155-167.
The Inner Quarters, 82-171.

Week 5 Familial Relations

10/23 Rituals of betrothal
10/26 Gender roles
10/28 discussion

Under Confucian Eyes, 103-117, 149-153, 217-229.
The Inner Quarters, 172-216, 235-271.

Week 6 Sexuality

10/30 Concubines: Raised the Red Lantern/discussion
11/2 Footbinding
11/4 **Midterm**

The Inner Quarters, 217-234.
The Talented Women of the Zhang Family, xv-xvi, 1-61.

Week 7 Writing Women

11/6 Writing
11/9 Work and managing the household
11/11 No class

Under Confucian Eyes, 169-194, 231-237.
The Talented Women of the Zhang Family, 62-129.

Week 8 Chastity

11/13 Female chastity cult

11/16 Faithful maidens

11/18 Discussion

Reader: #8.

Under Confucian Eyes, 239-250.

The Talented Women of the Zhang Family, 130-200.

Week 9 Beyond Domesticity and the Kinship

11/20 Courtesan culture

11/23 Religious Pursuits

Paper #2 Due

11/25 Discussion

Under Confucian Eyes, 1-44, 135-148.

Begin *A Daughter of Han*.

Week 10 Women at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

11/27 No Class

11/30 Women and social class

12/2 Discussion

Finish *A Daughter of Han*.

12/4 Women and China's modern transformation/course wrap-up

Take home final: Due December 8 at 4:00 p.m. Drop your exam in a marked box in the History Department (Fifth floor of the HSS building).

PAPER ASSIGNMENT #1 APPEARS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

WOMEN AND FAMILY IN CHINESE HISTORY

Instructions for the Reading Report (3 pages)

You may choose to turn in this assignment any Wednesday from Week 2 to Week 5, but your report must be on the primary source readings for that week.

Write a focused, thoughtful reflection on two or more of the primary documents (i.e. the original historical texts, not the editors' prefaces or introductions to these documents) from *Under Confucian Eyes* and the Course Reader, except documents #1 and 8) assigned for the week that you turn in your report. Organize your thoughts on these questions: What do the authors attempt to convey? What seems to be the authors' main arguments/concerns? What might be the authors' intentions for writing the document? Are there conflicting or shared points/views made in the documents? How do the documents inform you of the views/functions of the family and gender roles? In what ways do the documents complicate or revise your assertions about the Chinese family and women's lives in traditional China?

Choose the documents that most interest you to work with. Read them carefully and think about your argument thoroughly before you write. It is required that you cite evidence from the documents (or other course readings/lecture when it is appropriate) to support your view. When you cite, indicate the author's name and the page number. For example, (Reader, 22), or (Mann and Cheng, 78).

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, with font sizes and margins comparable to those in the course syllabus. Organize your discussion and write in clear language. A good report should have a concise statement of thesis at the beginning, logical development of argument in clear paragraphs and supported by evidence through the paper, and a brief conclusion.