

**WOMEN AND GENDER IN EAST ASIA**  
HIEA 125 Fall 2010

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This course explores aspects of the women's and gender history in East Asia, focusing on China and Japan. It will begin with the late imperial (China)/early modern (Japan) periods, and move to the twentieth century to examine how the dramatic historical changes of the time affected gender ideas and roles within the family and in the larger society. While the course is not designed within a strict comparative framework, we will devote attention to considering the issues from a cross-cultural perspective.

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**Course Requirements**

Reading assigned materials carefully prior to the class meeting is an essential part of the course work. Please check **SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS** for weekly readings. There will be regular in-class discussions on the readings assigned for each week. Be fully prepared to participate. Please see me or email me when you have questions or suggestions related to the course.

**Required Books**

Ida Pruitt. *A Daughter of Han: The Autobiography of A Chinese Working Woman*. (1945)  
Pa Chin. *The Family*. (1989)  
Robert J. Smith and Ella Lury Wiswell. *The Women of Suye Mura*. (1982)  
Anne Allison. *Nightwork : Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club*. (1994)

Additional reading materials will be on electronic reserve in the SSH library. You must complete the assigned e-reserve materials to meet the requirements of the course. To view (download or photocopy) the materials on campus, log on to the UCSD library website <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/>, click on "Reserves," and follow the instructions there. If you need to access the e-reserve materials off campus, you may need to set up a proxy account. Instructions are available at the circulation desk of the SSH library.

**Grading Information:**

Three quizzes	3x5%=15%
One 6-7 page paper	25% <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. Arrange your time to meet the deadlines.

Paper must be typed, double-spaced, with font sizes and margins comparable to those in the course syllabus. It 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**

9/24 Themes and Approaches

Week 1 Introduction

9/27 Historical context: East Asia

9/29 Confucian discourse on gender

10/1 Discussion

Week 2 Gender relations in late imperial China (China)

Reading: Begin *A Daughter of Han*

10/4 Late imperial male and female virtues

10/6 Women's culture

10/8 Discussion

Week 3 Women and marriage (China)

Reading: Finish *A Daughter of Han*

10/11 Kinship and the patriarchal family

10/13 Grooming a daughter for marriage

10/15 Discussion/**quiz #1**

Week 4 Tokugawa society (Japan)

Reading: Document #1 and #2

10/18 Gender and class  
10/20 Women and family  
10/22 Love in an eighteenth-century drama/discussion

Week 5 In the era of modernization (Japan)  
Reading: Document #3; Begin *Women of Suye Mura*  
10/25 Gender policy of the Meiji state  
10/27 Women and political/social movement  
10/29 Discussion

Week 6 In the rural world (Japan)  
Reading: Finish *Women of Suye Mura*  
11/1 **Midterm Exam**  
11/3 The case of Suye Mura—documentary, *Ella's Journal*  
11/5 Discussion

Week 7 In China's search for modernity (China)  
Reading: *Family*  
11/8 The May-fourth discourse  
11/10 Women in revolution  
11/12 Discussion  
**PAPER DUE**

Week 8 In the reform era (China)  
Reading: Document #4  
11/15 Women and economic reform  
11/17 Documentary: Fragile Rice Bowl  
11/19 Discussion/**quiz #2**

Week 9 Work and sexuality (Japan)  
Reading: *Nightwork*  
11/22 In the business world  
11/24 Discussion  
11/26 No class

Week 10 Considering East Asia cross-culturally  
11/29 Gender relations in Korea: a historical perspective  
12/1 Considering East Asia cross-culturally  
12/3 Course wrap-up/**quiz #3**

**Take home final: Due December 7, 3:00 pm. Drop your exam in a marked box in the History Department, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, HSS.**