

## WOMEN AND FAMILY IN CHINESE HISTORY

HIEA 137 Fall 2012

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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*).*

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### 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 reading assignments.) 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, and on reserve in SSH library):

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)

Dorothy Ko. *Teachers of the Inner Chambers: Women and Culture in Seventeenth-Century China*. (Stanford, 1994)

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

**Additional required reading materials** are on electronic reserve in the SSH library. 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 (password **wl137**). 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:\***

2 quizzes 5% each, 10%
One 6 page paper 25%
<i>Instructions TBA.</i>
Midterm 25%
Final 30%
<i>Study Guide for the midterm and the final TBA.</i>
Participation 10%

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

- The paper should be submitted at the beginning of class on the day it is due. Only hardcopies will be accepted. Late paper without instructor’s approval will be lowered 2/3 of a letter grade each day that it is late. In case of illness or emergency, contact the instructor BEFORE the assignment is due and submit documentation (for example, a doctor’s note) when you return to class.
- Arrange your time to meet the deadline. Take advantage of my office hours to discuss ideas for and approaches to your paper.

**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://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>.*

**SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Week 1 Introduction

9/27 Issues, perspectives, and sources

10/2 *Small Happiness* (documentary)

*Reading: The Inner Quarters, 1-44.*

*Teachers of the Inner Chamber, 1-26.*

Week 2 Yin-yang and gender norms

10/4 *Biographies for Women and Lessons for Women*

10/9 The Mulan story

*Reading: Ebrey, P. "Letter from Feng Yan to His Brother-in-Law," 74-75. (e-reserve)*

*Wang, R. "Biographies of Women," 149-161. (e-reserve)*

*Swann, N. L. "Lessons for Women." 82-90. (e-reserve)*

*Wang, R. "The Ballad of Mulan," 250-254. (e-reserve)*

Week 3 Confucian ideology and family practice

10/11 The patriarchal family

10/16 Inheritance and infanticide

**Quiz #1**

*Reading: Under Confucian Eyes, 71-82, 103-116.*

*Wang, R. "Family Instructions to the Yan Clan." 245-249. (e-reserve)*

*Lu, W. "A Pearl in the Palm." (e-reserve)*

Week 4 Familial relations

10/18 Family rituals

10/23 Filial piety

*Reading: Under Confucian Eyes, 119-132, 149-153.*

*The Inner Quarters, 45-130, 152-203*

Week 5 Marriage

10/25 Meanings of marriage

10/30 Concubinage

*Reading: Under Confucian Eyes, 155-167, 217-229.*

*The Inner Quarters, 204-271.*

Week 6 Literacy and talent

11/1 Women's education

11/6 **Midterm**

*Reading: Under Confucian Eyes, 169-177, 239-250.*

*Teachers of the Inner Chambers, 29-142.*

Week 7 Creating culture

11/8 Female poets

11/13 Female communities

*Reading: Teachers of the Inner Chambers, 143-250.*

Week 8 Female virtues

11/15 The chastity cult

11/20 The faithful maidens

**Quiz #2**

*Reading: Lu, W. "Putting Young Heroines in the Spotlight,"*

*"Dying for an Ideal." (e-reserve)*

Week 9 Beyond domesticity and the kinship

11/22 No class

11/27 Courtesans and religious leaders

**Paper Due**

*Reading: Under Confucian Eyes, 17-28, 135-148.  
Teachers of the Inner Chambers, 251-293.*

Week 10 New women

11/29 Women in China's modern transformation

12/4 Reexamine the May-fourth discourse

*Reading: Begin A Daughter of Han*

12/6 Course wrap up

*Reading: Finish A Daughter of Han*

**Final Exam: Wednesday, December 12, 2012, 11:30am-2:30pm.**