

WOMEN AND FAMILY IN CHINESE HISTORY
HIEA 137 Winter 2014

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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 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)

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

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%
Midterm, 20%
Final, 25%
Participation, 20%

* 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 me 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 me 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

1/7 Introduction

1/9 *Small Happiness* (documentary)

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

Week 2 Gender norms

Reading:

Wang, R. “Biographies of Women,” 149-161. (e-reserve)

Swann, N. L. "Lessons for Women." 82-90. (e-reserve)
Ebrey, P. "Letter from Feng Yan to His Brother-in-Law," 74-75. (e-reserve)
Wang, R. "The Ballad of Mulan," 250-254. (e-reserve)

- 1/14 *Biographies for Women and Lessons for Women*
1/16 The Mulan legend

Week 3 Family practices

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)

- 1/21 The patriarchal family

Quiz #1

- 1/23 Inheritance and infanticide

Week 4 Family relations

Reading: Under Confucian Eyes, 119-132, 149-153.
The Inner Quarters, 45-130, 152-203.

- 1/28 Five relations and family rituals
1/30 Filial piety

Week 5 Marriage

Reading: Under Confucian Eyes, 155-167, 217-229.
The Inner Quarters, 204-271.

- 2/4 Meanings of marriage
2/6 Love in arranged marriage

Week 6 Concubinage

Reading: The Talented Women of the Zhang Family, xv-xvi, 1-61.

- 2/11 Concubinage
2/13 **Midterm**

Week 7 Women's culture

Reading: Under Confucian Eyes, 169-177, 239-250.
The Talented Women of the Zhang Family, 62-129.

- 2/18 Writing
2/20 Women's communities

Week 8 Sexuality

Reading: Lu, W. "Putting Young Heroines in the Spotlight," "Dying for an Ideal." (e-reserve)
The Talented Women of the Zhang Family, 130-200.

- 2/25 The chastity cult
Quiz #2
2/27 Footbinding

Week 9 Class and work

*Reading: Begin A Daughter of Han
Under Confucian Eyes, 231-237.*

3/4 Women's work

3/6 Courtesans

Paper Due

Week 10 New women

Reading: Finish A Daughter of Han

3/11 Women in China's modern transformation

3/13 Reexamine the May-fourth discourse

Take home final: Due Thursday, March 20th at 3:00 p.m. Drop your exam in the History Department (Fifth floor of the HSS building).