

History/Women Studies 575, Women in China and Japan
Th 4:10-6:55 HSS 152
Fall, 2006

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Office Hours: T 2:10-3:00 p.m.; Th 2:10-4:00 p.m.

The purpose of this course is to study the social, cultural, political, and economic lives of women in China and Japan in the early modern and modern periods. We begin our discussions of Chinese women with the Qing (1644-1911) and our discussions of Japanese women with the Tokugawa (1600-1868) period. Earlier history will also be referred to when relevant. We will address the issues of constraint and fulfillment, discourse and reality, and look at the changing faces of Chinese and Japanese women in family, school, and work. This course is intended to be interdisciplinary. We will consult with historical as well as literary, linguistic, religious, medical, anthropological, and sociological works, as we try to reconstruct the lives of women in China and Japan in recent centuries.

- * *This class fulfills History Major and Minor Requirement.*
- * *This class is part of the following General Education Segment III Clusters: Asian Society, Politics, and Culture, Category C; Women: Half the World, Category C.*
- * *To receive Segment III credit for this course, students must complete the cluster as described in the Class Schedule and Bulletin, including the requirement that they must have earned 60 units by the end of the semester in which they take the course.*
- * *Segment III courses are required to include a minimum of 10 pages of writing corrected by the instructor. This course meets or exceeds this minimum requirement.*

Mode of Instruction: lecture, films, classroom discussion of assigned readings, student-led activities, exams, and essay assignment

Texts:

Bryna Goodman and Wendy Larson, eds., Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China
Tamara Jacka, Rural Women in Urban China: Gender, Migration, and Social Change
Gail Lee Bernstein, ed., Recreating Japanese Women, 1600-1945
Miyako Inoue, Vicarious Language: Gender & Linguistic Modernity in Japan

Requirements:

Class Participation: Please do all required reading **before** class to be ready for discussions. Attendance will be taken every week and performance will be noted.

Student-Led Activities: Every student should contribute **one** of the following activities to make the class more fun:

- (1) Thematic summary of a monograph (Mandatory for Grads; Optional for Seniors).
- (2) Thematic summary of a journal article or a chapter in an edited volume.
- (3) Critique of a documentary shown in class (view the film in the Media Access Center ahead of time).
- (4) Report on a biography of a prominent Chinese or Japanese woman.
- (5) Interview of an acquaintance with life experience in China or Japan.

Please refer to the Selected Bibliography and the bibliographies in your textbooks for possible material. Feel free to consult with the instructor before your oral presentation. The report is presented both orally and in writing. Turn in a **2-3 page, typed (double-spaced) text** to the instructor and do a **5-minute oral presentation** in class and **entertain questions**. DO NOT READ YOUR TEXT and send the entire class to sleep.

Term Paper: Write an essay on a historical issue of your choice concerning **Chinese or Japanese women in the early modern to modern periods** based on the **common reading** as well as **outside research** (consult at least **four scholarly** sources). The essay should be about **10 pages, typed, double-spaced**, using **12-point font**, with **page number** on the upper right-hand corner, and **stapled** on the upper left-hand corner, and with appropriate **documentation** by footnoting the author, title of book/article, and page number of the source material you cite, paraphrase, or summarize in the essay. Grading is based on both form and content. Observe school policies on **plagiarism**.

Exams: There is a **China exam** as well as a **Japan exam**, covering the reading, the lecture, and the discussion. Both exams are in-class, including identification of terms and short essay questions. Study guides will be distributed before the exams. **No make-up exams** will be given without compelling reason.

Performance Characteristics to Guide Grading of Essays:

(Based on the criteria of CSET: Social Science Exam)

- * **PURPOSE:** The extent to which the student responds to the question's/assignment's charge in relation to relevant subject matter requirements.
- * **SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE:** The application of accurate subject matter knowledge as described in the relevant subject matter requirements.
- * **SUPPORT:** The appropriateness and quality of the supporting evidence in relation to the relevant subject matter requirements.
- * **DEPTH AND BREADTH OF UNDERSTANDING:** The degree to which the essay demonstrates understanding of the relevant subject matter requirements.

Grading:

2 Exams	40%
Term Paper	40%
Student Activities & Class Participation	20%

93 & up	A	90-92	A-	87-89	B+	83-86	B
80-82	B-	77-79	C+	73-76	C	70-72	C-
67-69	D+	63-66	D	60-62	D-	below 60	F

All requirements have to be fulfilled to get a passable grade. "**Incomplete**" will be granted only upon written request, with good reason, and when the student has completed and passed at least 75% of the course requirements. "**WU**" (Unauthorized Withdrawal) will be assigned if the student fails to fulfil all requirements by the final exam day without filling out a petition for Incomplete or Withdrawal.

Schedule of Classes:

8/31: Introduction to the Course
Why Study Women? How to Study Women in China and Japan?

Women in China

Patterns of Mobility

9/7: READ: Gender in Motion, Part I

Spatial Transformations

9/14: READ: Gender in Motion, Part II
Student Activities: (1) & (2); 4-5 people

Boundary-Crossing

9/21: READ: Gender in Motion, Part III
Student Activities: (1) & (2); 4-5 people

Gender, Migration, and Social Change

9/28: **FILM:** *Through Chinese Women's Eyes* (# 89350) (52 min)
READ: Rural Women in Urban China, 3-83
Student Activities: (3); 2 people

10/5: READ: Rural Women in Urban China, 87-161
Student Activities: (4); 3-4 people

10/12: READ: Rural Women in Urban China, 165-277
Student Activities: (5); 3-4 people

10/19: CHINA EXAM

Women in Japan

Gender Norm and Deviation in Tokugawa Japan

10/26: READ: Recreating Japanese Women, 1-70
FILM: *Geisha* (# 83083) (51 min)
Student Activities: (3); 2 people

11/2: READ: Recreating Japanese Women, 71-148
Student Activities: (1) & (2); 2-3 people

Modern Discourse on Women's Proper Place

11/9: READ: Recreating Japanese Women, 151-238
 Student Activities: (1) & (2); 2-3 people

State Feminism

11/16: READ: Recreating Japanese Women, 239-321
 Student Activities: (1) & (2); 2-3 people

11/23: Thanksgiving Recess. No Class.

Gender and Linguistic Modernity in Japan

11/30: READ: Vicarious Language, 1-107
 Student Activities: (4); 3-4 people

12/7: TERM PAPER DUE (ABSOLUTELY NO EXTENSION)
 READ: Vicarious Language, 108-203

12/14: Vicarious Language, 207-281
 Student Activities: (5); 3-4 people

12/21: JAPAN EXAM

1/3: Grades due.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!