

## Chinese Women's Studies (Tentative)

**Instructor:** Dr. Lijuan Wu

### **Course Description:**

In an era of modernization and globalization, contemporary Chinese women are experiencing rapid changes in every aspect of their lives. Yet, the heritages of the revolutionary era and the influences of traditional Chinese culture cannot simply be written off in their lives. Therefore, for all Chinese women, this is an era of change and continuity as well. The intertwining forces of traditions, revolutions, the state, and the market have been shaping the private and public spheres for Chinese women.

This course covers major topics and issues about Chinese women. It introduces the change and continuity of women's identity, sexuality, marriage, and family of Chinese women throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, paying special attention to the impacts of the revolution. Furthermore, the course discusses gender divisions of labor in rural and urban China and the experience of rural-to-urban women migrants in the reform era in order to capture (at least partially) the change and continuity of some Chinese women's lives under the impacts (or lack of) of development, modernization, urbanization, and globalization. At the end of course, the issues on women's body and violence against women are discussed.

### **Readings:**

#### Required:

Entwisle, Barbara and Gail E. Henderson (eds.), 2000, *Re-Drawing Boundaries: Work, Households, and Gender in China*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press.

Evans, Harriet, 1997, *Women and Sexuality in China: Female Sexuality and Gender since 1949*. New York: Continuum.

Gaetano, Arianne M. and Tamara Jacka (eds.), 2004, *On the Move: Women and Rural-to-Urban Migration in Contemporary China*. New York: Columbia University Press .

\*Other required articles are available electronically or will be distributed during the course.

#### Recommended:

Brownell, Susan and Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom (eds.), 2002, *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities: A Reader*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Gilmartin, Christina K., Gail Hershatter, Lisa Rofel, and Tyrene White (eds.) 1994, *Engendering China: Women, Culture, and the State*. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: Harvard University Press.

Yan, Yunxiang. 2003. *Private Life Under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village 1949-1999*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

**Course Objectives:**

The goal of this course is to help the students to develop a basic understanding of Chinese women's status, to explore the underlying social, economic, political and cultural factors that have been shaping Chinese women's life experiences, and to learn how some characteristics of women's identity, sexuality, marriage, family, and work have been maintained, whilst gradual or even radical changes have taken place in contemporary China.

**Course Requirements:**

The final grade will consist of four components: class participation and discussion, two short papers, and one research project.

*Class Participation and Discussion (20%)*

The course will follow a lecture-discussion format. Students are expected to attend all classes. To make sure that all students come to class prepared to discuss, students are required to submit one-page summary and comment on the assigned readings by midnight Wednesday each week.

*Short Papers (50%)*

There will be two equally weighted short papers (5-page long, double-spaced). Detailed requirements on each paper will be specified by the instructor. Dates the requirements will be handed out and the deadline for each are noted on the course calendar below.

*Research Project (30%)*

For the research project, the students are allowed to choose any topic that is related to Chinese women or gender issues in China and agreed upon with the instructor. Students are expected to develop their own ideas about the selected topic in the project and write a completed paper (10-page long, double-spaced). In addition, each student will present her/his research project to the class at the end of the semester.

**Course Policies:**

Cheating, or engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will be dealt with maximum punishment under university policies. The use of websites or library materials without proper citation is considered academic dishonesty.

Necessary accommodations will be made for any documented physical or learning disability. Please inform the instructor by the first day of class.

**Course Calendar:**

**Week 1: Overview**

*Readings:*

World Bank, 2002, *China Country Gender Review*. Washington DC.

*Film:*

William, Sue, 2003, *China: A Century of Revolution*, Ambrica Productions.

**Week 2: Women's Movement and Feminism**

*Readings:*

Ko, Dorothy and Zheng Wang, 2006, "Introduction: Translating Feminisms in China," *Gender and History*, 18(3):463-471.

Yang, Mayfair, 1999, "From Gender Erasure to Gender Difference: State Feminism, Consumer Sexuality, and Women's Public Sphere in China," pp. 35-67 in Mayfair Mei-hui Yang (ed.), *Spaces of Their Own: Women's Public Sphere in Transnational China*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Gilmartin, Christina K., 2004, "Gender, Political Culture, and Women's Mobilization in the Chinese Nationalist Revolution, 1924-1927," pp. 195-225 in Christina K. Gilmartin, Gail Hershatter, Lisa Rofel, and Tyrene White (eds.), *Engendering China: Women, Culture, and the State*. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: Harvard University Press.

Barlow, Tani E., 1994, "Politics and Protocols of Funu: (Un)Making National Women," in Christina K. Gilmartin, Gail Hershatter, Lisa Rofel, and Tyrene White (eds.), *Engendering China: Women, Culture, and the State*. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: Harvard University Press.

**Week 3 & Week 4: Women and Identity**

*Readings:*

Evans, Harriet, 2002, "Past, Perfect or Imperfect: Changing Images of the Ideal Wife," pp. 335-360 in Brownell, Susan and Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom (eds), *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities: A Reader*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Evans, Harriet, 2008, "Negotiating Gender Boundaries between 'Inner' and 'Outer,'" "Difference and Discrimination," pp. 101-143 in *The Subject of Gender: Daughters and Mothers in Urban China*. UK: Rowman and Littlefield.

Gaetano, Arianne M. and Tamara Jacka (eds.), 2004, Chapter 1.

Pun, Ngai, 1999, "Becoming Dagongmei (Working Girls): The Politics of Identity and Difference in Reform China," *The China Journal*, 42:1-18.

**Week 5: Women and Sexuality**

\*\*\*\*\**The requirement of the first short paper is distributed.*\*\*\*\*\*

*Readings:*

Harriet Evans, 1997, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5.

**Week 6: Women and Marriage**

\*\*\*\*\**The first short paper is due.*\*\*\*\*\*

*Readings:*

Friedman, Sara, 2005, "The Intimacy of State Power: Marriage, Liberation, and Socialist Subjects in Southeastern China", *American Ethnologist*, 32(2):312-327.

Arianne M. Gaetano & Tamara Jacka (eds.), 2004, Chapter 5.

Yan, Yunxiang, 2003, "Conclusion: The Socialist State, the Private Family, and the Uncivil Individual", pp. 217-235 in *Private Life under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village 1949-1999*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

Kung, Winnie W., Suet-Lin Hung and Cecilia W. Chan, 2004, "How the Social-cultural Context Shapes Women's Divorce Experience in Hong Kong", *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 35(1):33-50.

### **Week 7: Women and Work**

*Readings:*

Barbara Entwisle & Gail E. Henderson (eds.), 2000, Chapters 3, 4, 7, 8, 10.

Greenhalgh, Susan. 1994. "De-Orientalizing the Chinese Family Firm." *American Ethnologist* 21(4):746-775.

### **Week 8: Women and Development**

*Readings:*

Barbara Entwisle & Gail E. Henderson (eds.), 2000, Chapter 9.

Pun, Ngai, 2007, "Gendering the Dormitory Labor System: Production, Reproduction, and Migrant Labor in South China", *Feminist Economics*, 13(3-4):239-258.

Hare, Denise, Li Yang and Daniel Englander, 2007, "Land Management in Rural China and its Gender Implications", *Feminist Economics*, 13(3-4):35-61.

Pimentel, Ellen, 2006, "Gender Ideology, Household Behavior, and Backlash in Urban China", *Journal of Family Issues*, 27(3):341-365.

MacPhail, Fiona and Xiao-yuan Dong, 2007, "Women's Market Work and Household Status in Rural China: Evidence from Jiangsu and Shandong in the late 1990s", *Feminist Economics*, 13(3-4):93-124.

### **Week 9: Women and Migration**

\*\*\*\*\**The requirement of the second short paper is distributed.*\*\*\*\*\*

*Readings:*

Barbara Entwisle & Gail E. Henderson (eds.), 2000, Chapter 13.

Gaetano, Arianne M. and Tamara Jacka (eds.), 2004, Chapters 4, 6, 8, 10.

### **Week 10: Women and the Family Planning Policies**

\*\*\*\*\**The second short paper is due.*\*\*\*\*\*

*Readings:*

Harriet Evans, 1997, Chapter 6.

Greenhalgh, Susan and Jiali Li, 1995, "Engendering Reproductive Policy and Practice in Peasant China: For a Feminist Demography of Reproduction, " *Signs*, 20(3):601-641.

Fong, Vanessa, 2002, "China's One-Child Policy and the Empowerment of Urban Daughters", *American Anthropologists*, 104(4):1095-1108.

Shi, Lihong, 2009, "'Little Quilted Vests to Warm Parents' Hearts': Redefining the Gendered Practice of Filial Piety in Rural North-eastern China", *China Quarterly*, 198:348-363.

### **Week 11: Violence against Women**

*Readings:*

Klasen, Stephan and Claudia Wink, 2003, "Missing Women: Revisiting the Debate, " *Feminist Economics*, 9(2-3):263-299.

Zhao, Gracie Ming, 2003, "Trafficking of Women for Marriage in China: Policy and Practice," *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 3(1):83-102.

Xu, Xiao, et al., 2005, "Prevalence of and Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Violence in China," *American Journal of Public Health*, 95(1):78-85.

Tang, C So-Kum, et al., 2002, "Social Construction of Women as Legitimate Victims of Violence in Chinese Societies", *Violence against Women*, 8(8):968-996.

### **Week 12: Project Presentation**

\*\*\*\*\**The research project is due on Thursday of the final exam week.*\*\*\*\*\*