

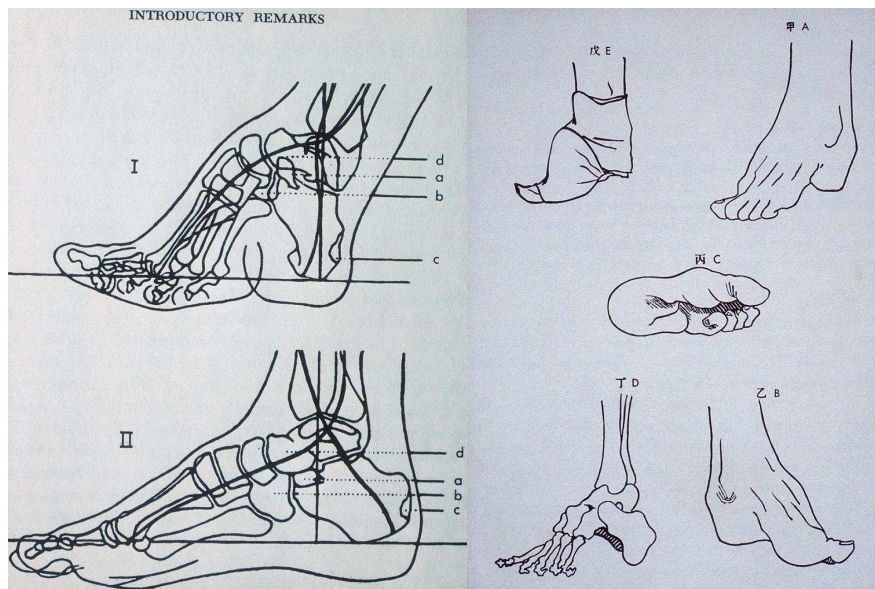
History 600 Fall 2011

University of Wisconsin-Madison

W 9:00-11:00 am, Humanities 5245

Professor: **Dr. Shelly Chan** pchan4@wisc.edu; 608-263-1837; box 4015

Office Hours: W 11-12, F 12:30-1:30, and by appointment; 4120 Humanities



SEX, BODIES, AND MODERNITY IN CHINA¹

This advanced seminar explores the social and cultural history of late imperial and modern China, with a focus on ideas and practices of the body, gender, and sexuality from the eighteenth century to the present. We will consider the three subjects together as a means to understand the complexity and diversity of Chinese lives. We will also examine how the meanings of these subjects have changed under forces of dynastic change, imperialism, nationalism, and global capitalism, making up China's complex experiences of "modernity."

READINGS

The following required texts are available at the University Bookstore and on reserve at the College Library. Additional readings (marked with *) can be accessed at Learn@UW.

- Susan Mann, *Precious Records: Women in China's Long Eighteenth Century* (Stanford, 1997)
- Dorothy Ko, *Every Step a Lotus: Shoes for Bound Feet* (California, 2001)
- Susan Brownell and Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom, eds., *Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities: A Reader* (California, 2002)
- Antonia Finnane, *Changing Clothes in China: Fashion, History, Nation* (Columbia, 2008)

¹ Illustrations of footbinding. Left: "X-Ray comparison of bound and normal foot." Right: "stages of the footbinding process." Accessed on March 12, 2009. Artstor.

- Jin Jiang, *Women Playing Men: Yue Opera and Social Change in Twentieth-Century China* (Washington, 2009)
- Pun Ngai, *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace* (Duke, 2005)

REQUIREMENTS

1. Class Participation 10%

It is important that all students come prepared and contribute actively to every session of this intensive seminar. For any session that is missed, you will be required to write a 5-page essay about the readings assigned for that week.

2. Reading Responses 20%

On the day prior to each class meeting (by noon on Tuesdays), you will post a one-page critical response to the reading and one question for class discussion at Learn@UW. Provide a hard copy to the instructor. Read other people's postings before coming to class. Late postings will not be considered.

3. Presentations 20%

A team of two students will lead each session: one to summarize the main points of the reading; the other to offer a critical response to the reading and coordinate discussion of questions prepared by the entire class. Each student will sign up for two such presentations in alternate roles.

4. Research Paper 50%

You will research and write a paper of 12-15 pages, including an outline with an annotated bibliography (10%) and two drafts (20%), on a topic of your choice related to the course. Each student will report on research progress periodically, present work at the Writers' Workshop, and serve as a peer reviewer for another student's project. The final paper (20%) is due on Dec. 19.

You are also required to attend a Historical Research Workshop at 6:00-7:30 pm on Sept 20, 22, 26 or 28. Register in advance.

Research paper schedule:

Oct. 5	Tentative paper idea
Oct. 19	Paper outline due: topic, questions, and annotated bibliography
Nov. 30	Writers' Workshop: peer review of draft 1 (5 pages)*
Dec. 7, 14	Writers' Workshop: presentation of draft 2 (10 pages)*
Dec. 19	Final Paper due (12-15 pages)

*Drafts are due one day prior to meeting.

SCHEDULE

Sep. 7 Introduction

Sep. 14 Chinese Bodies

*Kuriyama, “The Imagination of Winds and the Development of the Chinese Conception of Body

*Hevia, “Sovereignty and Subject: Constituting Relations of Power in Qing Guest Ritual”
Furth, “Blood, Body and Gender” in Brownell and Wasserstrom, 291-314

Sep. 21 Virtue and the Imperial Order

Mann, *Precious Records*, 1-75

Theiss, “Femininity in Flux” in Brownell and Wasserstrom, 47-66

Sommer, “Dangerous Males” in Brownell and Wasserstrom, 67-88

Sep. 28 Family, Education, and Production

Mann, *Precious Records*, 76-226

*Pomeranz, “Women’s Work and the Economics of Respectability”

Oct. 5 Footbinding

Ko, *Every Step a Lotus*

*Zito, “Bound to be represented”

*Ko, “Bondage in Time: Footbinding and Fashion Theory”

Tentative paper idea

Oct. 12 New Culture, New Danger

Glosser, ““The Truth I learned”” in Brownell and Wasserstrom, 120-144

Hershatter, “Modernizing Sex, Sexing Modernity” in Brownell and Wasserstrom, 199-225

*Dong, “Who is Afraid of the Chinese Modern Girl?”

*Kang, “Tabloid Sex and Cultural Conservatives”

Oct. 19 Fashioning the Nation

Finnane, *Changing Clothes in China*

Paper outline due

Oct. 26 Performing Gender

Jin, *Women Playing Men*

Nov. 2 Iron Girls and Natural Women

*Wang, “Gender and Maoist Urban Reorganization”

Honig, “Maoist Mappings of Gender” in Brownell and Wasserstrom, 255-268

Evans, “Past, Present or Imperfect” in Brownell and Wasserstrom, 335-360

Nov. 9 Reforming Labor

Pun, Made in China

Nov. 16 Contemporary Desires

Schein, “Gender and Internal Orientalism in China,” in Brownell and Wasserstrom, 385-411

Chen, “Embodying *Qi* and Masculinities in Post-Mao China” in Brownell and Wasserstrom, 315-339

*Rofel, “Qualities of Desire: Imagining Gay Identities”

- Nov. 23** **Work on your paper. No class.**
- Nov. 30** **Writers' Workshop: Peer Review Session**
- Dec. 7** **Writers' Workshop: Presentations I**
- Dec. 14** **Writers' Workshop: Presentations II. Final Paper due on Dec. 19.**

POLICIES

- If you need any accommodations related to your attendance or performance in this course, please inform me during the first two weeks of class.
- As a courtesy, please do not use your cell phone or the internet when class is in session.
- If you miss a class, find another student who can share notes and announcements with you.
- Request for deadline extensions will only be accepted with a doctor's note. Unexcused late assignments and papers will be docked for 10% per day.
- Plagiarism, meaning quoting or basing your ideas on the work of another person without proper citation, is a serious offence. All cases will be reported. Learn how to avoid it: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html

SUGGESTED PAPER TOPICS

Courtesan culture
 Sports and nationalism
 Changing meanings of chastity
 Migrant bodies
 Women revolutionaries
 Women writers
 Masculinities in the twentieth century
 Body in traditional medicine
 Same-sex identities and communities
 Sex work and sex workers
 Gender and ethnicity

ADDITIONAL READINGS (available at Learn@UW)

Dong, Madeleine Yue. 2008. "Who is Afraid of the Chinese Modern Girl." In *The Modern Girl Around the World: Consumption, Modernity, and Globalization*. eds. The Modern Girl Around the World Research Group (Durham and London: Duke University Press), 194-219.

Hevia, James. 1994. "Sovereignty and Subject: Constituting Relations of Power in Qing Guest Ritual." In *Body, Subject and Power in China*. eds. Tani E. Barlow and Angela Zito (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press), 181-200.

Kang, Wenqing. 2009. "Tabloid Sex and Cultural Conservatives." In *Obsession: Male Same-Sex Relations in China, 1900-1950* (Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong Press), 85-133.

Ko, Dorothy. 2000. "Bondage in Time: Footbinding and Fashion Theory." In *Modern Chinese Literary and Cultural Studies in the Age of Theory*, ed. Rey Chow (Durham and London: Duke University Press), 199-226.

Kuriyama, Shigehisa. 1994. "The Imagination of Winds and the Development of the Chinese Conception of Body." In *Body, Subject and Power in China*. eds. Tani E. Barlow and Angela Zito (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press), 23-41.

Pomeranz, Kenneth. 2005. "Women's Work and the Economics of Respectability." In *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Cultural China*. eds. Bryna Goodman and Wendy Larson (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers), 239-264.

Rofel, Lisa. 2007. "Qualities of Desire: Imagining Gay Identities." In *Desiring China: Experiments in Neoliberalism, Sexuality and Public Culture* (Durham and London: Duke University Press), 85-110.

Wang, Zheng. 2005. "Gender and Maoist Urban Reorganization" In *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Cultural China*. eds. Bryna Goodman and Wendy Larson (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers), 189-210.

Zito, Angela. 2006. "Bound to be Represented." In *Embodied Modernities: Corporeality, Representation, and Chinese Cultures*. eds. Fran Martin and Larissa Heinrich (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press), 21-44.