

History 600 Spring 2012

University of Wisconsin-Madison

W 8:50-10:50 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 CHINA

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 these interconnected subjects 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 globalization, making up China's experiences of "modernity."

REQUIRED TEXTS

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

Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing: Global Currents in Chinese History* (W.W. Norton, 1999)

Susan Mann, *Precious Records: Women in China's Long Eighteenth Century* (Stanford, 1997)

Susan Greenhalgh and Edwin A. Winckler, *Governing China's Population: From Leninist to Neoliberal Politics* (Stanford, 2005)

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)

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)

RECOMMENDED TEXT (REQUIRED FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS)

Susan Mann, *Gender and Sexuality in Modern Chinese History* (Cambridge, 2011)

REQUIREMENTS**1. Class Participation 10%**

All students must come prepared and contribute actively to every session of this fast-paced seminar. Those with more than two unexcused absences, i.e. absences without medical documentation, will receive zero for this portion of the grade.

2. Learn@UW Postings 10%

On the day prior to each class meeting (by 5 pm on Tuesdays), you will post the following: a quote from the assigned readings, a concise commentary of no more than a paragraph addressing the quote, and a follow-up question for class discussion. Read other people's postings before coming to class. Late postings will not be considered.

3. Presentations 10%

A team of three students will lead each session: one student to summarize the main points of the readings; a second student to offer a critique; and a third student to coordinate discussion of questions prepared by the entire class. Each student will sign up for two such roles.

4. Response Papers 20%

Students will submit three papers of 1-2 pages each discussing the central themes of the readings assigned for the week. Graduate students must submit a response paper every week.

5. Research Paper 50%

You will research and write a paper of 15 pages (20-25 pages for graduate students), including an outline with an annotated bibliography (10%) and an ungraded draft of 10 pages, on a topic of your choice related to the course and preapproved by the professor. 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 (40%) is due on May 14.

You are also required to attend a Historical Research Workshop at 6:00-7:30 pm on February 1, 7, 9 or 13 at Memorial Library, Room 231. Register in advance.

Research paper schedule:

Feb. 22	Post tentative paper idea to Learn@UW
Mar. 14	Paper outline and annotated bibliography due
May 2, 9	Writers' workshop: peer review and presentation of draft 2 (10 pages)*
May 14	Final paper due (15 pages)

*Drafts are due two days prior to meeting.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 25 Introduction

Feb. 1 Modernity in Chinese History

Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*

Feb. 8 Body and Gender

*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

Recommended: Mann, *Gender and Sexuality in Modern Chinese History*

High Qing Period, the 1700s**Feb. 15 Gender 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

Feb. 22 Family, Education, and Work

Mann, *Precious Records*, 75-226

Tentative paper idea due

Late Qing and Republican periods, the 1800s-1949**Feb. 29 Footbinding**

Ko, *Every Step a Lotus*, entire

*Ko, "Bondage in Time: Footbinding and Fashion Theory"

Mar. 7 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

*Kang, "Tabloid Sex and Cultural Conservatives"

Mar. 14 Modern Girl

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

*Finnane, "What Should Women Wear?"

*Edwards, "Policing the Modern Woman in Republican China"

Paper outline and annotated bibliography due

Mar. 21 Performing Gender

Jin, *Women Playing Men*

Contemporary Period: 1949 to the present**Mar. 28 Body Politics**

Greenhalgh and Winckler, *Governing China's Population*

Apr. 4 No Class. Spring Break

Apr. 11 Reforming Labor

Pun, Made in China

Apr. 18 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"

Apr. 25 No Class. Work on your paper.

May 2 Writers' Workshop: Presentations I

May 9 Writers' Workshop: Presentations II. Final Paper due on May 14.

POLICIES

- If you need any accommodations related to your attendance or performance in this course, please discuss with me in advance, not after.
- 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 papers will be docked for 10% per day and rejected a week from the original due date.
- 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

Migrant bodies

Women revolutionaries

Women writers

Masculinities in the twentieth century

The body in traditional Chinese medicine

Same-sex identities and communities

Sex work and sex workers

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.

- Edwards, Louise. 2000. "Policing the Modern Woman in Republican China." *Modern China*, Vol. 26, No. 2, 115-147.
- Finnane, Antonia. 1998. "What Should Women Wear." In Antonia Finnane and Anne McLaren, eds. *Dress, Sex and Text in Chinese Culture* (Melbourne: Monash Asia Institute), 3-36.
- 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.
- 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.