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).

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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):


Susan Mann and Yu-yin Cheng eds. *Under Confucian Eyes: Writings on Gender in Chinese History*. (Berkeley, 2001)


**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/](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:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>One 6 page paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Guide for the midterm and the final</td>
<td>TBA.</td>
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* 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 the instructor 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 the instructor 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](http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html).*

**SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Week 1 Introduction
9/27 Issues, perspectives, and sources
10/2 *Small Happiness* (documentary)
   Reading: *The Inner Quarters*, 1-44.
   *Teachers of the Inner Chamber*, 1-26.
Week 2 Yin-yang and gender norms
10/4 Biographies for Women and Lessons for Women
10/9 The Mulan story
  Reading: Ebrey, P. “Letter from Feng Yan to His Brother-in-Law,” 74-75. (e-reserve)
  Wang, R. “Biographies of Women,” 149-161. (e-reserve)
  Swann, N. L. “Lessons for Women.” 82-90. (e-reserve)
  Wang, R. “The Ballad of Mulan,” 250-254. (e-reserve)

Week 3 Confucian ideology and family practice
10/11 The patriarchal family
10/16 Inheritance and infanticide
  Quiz #1
  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)

Week 4 Familial relations
10/18 Family rituals
10/23 Filial piety
  The Inner Quarters, 45-130, 152-203

Week 5 Marriage
10/25 Meanings of marriage
10/30 Concubinage
  The Inner Quarters, 204-271.

Week 6 Literacy and talent
11/1 Women’s education
11/6 Midterm
  Reading: Under Confucian Eyes, 169-177, 239-250.
  Teachers of the Inner Chambers, 29-142.

Week 7 Creating culture
11/8 Female poets
11/13 Female communities
  Reading: Teachers of the Inner Chambers, 143-250.

Week 8 Female virtues
11/15 The chastity cult
11/20 The faithful maidens
  Quiz #2
  Reading: Lu, W. “Putting Young Heroines in the Spotlight.”
  “Dying for an Ideal.” (e-reserve)

Week 9 Beyond domesticity and the kinship
11/22 No class
11/27 Courtesans and religious leaders
**Paper Due**

*Teachers of the Inner Chambers, 251-293.*

Week 10 New women
11/29 Women in China’s modern transformation
12/4 Reexamine the May-fourth discourse
   *Reading: Begin *A Daughter of Han*

12/6 Course wrap up
   *Reading: Finish *A Daughter of Han*

**Final Exam: Wednesday, December 12, 2012, 11:30am-2:30pm.**