

History 4395  
Instructor: **Dr. Xiaoping Cong**  
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Tel.: (713) 743-3096  
Office Hours: M. 2:30-3:30pm & Th. 1-2 pm or by appointment

Fall 2006  
Classroom: 15-AH  
Class meetings: Th. 2:30-5:30 pm  
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## Chinese Women in Twentieth-Century Revolutions and Reforms

### Course Description:

This upper-division course will introduce students to the history of women, examining their activities and experience in a series of social revolutions and reforms in 20th-Century China. At first students will look into the changing position of women in Chinese family system in the early decades of the century. Through reading legal documents and related English scholarship, the students will then explore whether or not and/or how much the institutional changes made by the National and Communist revolutions have improved women's conditions in society and family. Finally, students will learn about the recent scholarly debate on whether or not China's economic reform in post-Mao era has benefited women's advancement in society. Students will be expected to develop their own interpretations of the issues addressed in the course reading. The class will be conducted in the form of seminar and students will be expected to prepare to discuss the weekly reading and do presentation in class. The course also requires attendance, participation in discussions, presentation, and two papers (10-12 pages in each) for undergraduate students and one (20-25 pages) for graduate students.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Students will attain, through lectures, discussion and reading, and demonstrate, through presentations and papers, knowledge about the historical development of Chinese women in the Twentieth-century, a non-US area of the world.
- Class discussion of primary sources and secondary works of history will help students develop critical reading and analytical thinking.
- Paper assignments will enable student to improve their writing skills.

### Required Textbooks:

1. ONO Kazuko, *Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution, 1850-1950*, Stanford University Press, 1978.
2. WANG Zheng, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment: Oral and Textual Histories*, UC Press, 1999.
3. LEE, Lily Xiao Hong and Sue WILES, *Women of the Long March*, Allen & Unwin, 1999.
4. Judith STACEY, *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China*, UC Press, 1983
5. ZHONG, Wang, and Bai (eds.), *Some of Us: Chinese Women Growing up in the Mao Era*, Rutgers University Press, 2001
6. XIN Ran, *The Good Women of China: Hidden Voices*, New York, Pantheon Books, 2002
7. Margery WOLF, *Revolution Postponed: Women in Contemporary China*, Stanford University Press, 1985.
8. Course Reader. (All readings with "\*" marks are available on WebCT Vista).

**Further Reading:** (The textbooks marked with "\*" are required textbook for grad. students)

- \*1. Susan MANN, *Precious Records: Women in China's Long Eighteenth Century*, Stanford University Press, 1997
2. Ida PRUITT, *A Daughter of Han: The Autobiography of a Chinese Working Woman*, Stanford University Press, 1967
- \*3. Kathryn BERNHARDT, *Women and Property in China, 960-1949*, Stanford University Press, 1999.
- \*4. Susan BROWNELL, and Jeffrey N. WASSERSTROM, *Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities: A Reader*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002.
- \*5. Christina GILMARTIN, *Engendering the Chinese Revolution: Radical Women, Communist Politics, and Mass Movements in the 1920s*, Berkeley: University of California Press, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.
- \*6. Emily HONIG and Gail HERSHATTER: *Personal Voice: Chinese Women in the 1980's*, Stanford University Press, 1988.

**Grading:**

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|---|-----|
| 1. Participation (attendance and discussion)/Presentation | 20% |
| 2. Paper(s)   | 80% |

**Course Schedule** (subject to change):

**Week 1** (8/24) Introduction to the course

**Week 2** (8/31) Traditional Patriarchal System

- \*1. Ban Zhao, "Lesson for Women"
2. Judith Stacey, *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China*, pp. 15-65
3. Ono Kazuko, *Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution*, pp. 1-22
- \*4. Susan Mann, *Precious Records*, pp. 45-75
- \*5. Francesca Bray, *Technology and Gender: Fabrics of Power in Late Imperial China*, pp. 183-205

**Week 3** (9/7) Women in the Transformation of Chinese Nation-State

1. Ono Kazuko, *Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution*, pp. 23-92
- \*2. Joan Judge, "Citizens or Mothers of Citizens? Gender and the Meaning of Modern Chinese Citizenship"
- \*3. Xiaoping Cong, "From 'Cainü' to 'Nü Jiaoxi': Female Normal Schools and the Transformation of Women's Education in Late Qing China, 1895-1911"

**Week 4** (9/14) The Crisis of the Traditional Family System

1. Ono Kazuko, *Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution*, pp. 93-111
- \*2. Han Yi, "Destroying the Family"
- \*3. Lu Xun, "The New Year's Sacrifice"
4. Judith Stacey, *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China*, pp. 67-107

**Week 5** (9/21) Women in the Chinese Enlightenment

1. Wang, Zheng, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment*, pp. 119-286

**Week 6 (9/28) May Fourth Discourse and Female Subjectivity**

1. Movie: "Raising the Red Lantern"
- \*2. Dorothy Ko, *Teachers' of the Inner Chambers*, pp. 1-26.
3. Ono Kazuko, *Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution*, pp. 112-139

**Week 7 (10/5) Women and Nationalist Revolution**

- \*1. *The Civil Cold of the Republic of China* (1930)
- \*2. Christina Gilmartin, "Gender, Political Culture, and Women's Mobilization in the Chinese Nationalist Revolution, 1924-1927"
- \*3. Philip Huang, "Women's Choices under Guomindang Law: Marriage, Divorce, and Adultery" in Huang, *Code, Custom, and Legal Practice in China*, pp. 180-200
- \*4. Kathryn Bernhardt, *Women and Property in China, 960—1949*, pp. 117-60
5. Suggested Movie: "The Soong Sisters"

**Week 8 (10/12) Patriarchy and Communist Revolution**

1. Ono Kazuko, *Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution*, pp. 140-75
2. Judith Stacey, *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China*, pp. 107-73
- \*3. Christina Gilmartin, *Engendering the Chinese Revolution*, pp. 19-43, 71-95

**First Paper Due**

**Week 9 (10/19) Women in Communist Revolution: Liberation or Loyalty?**

1. Lee, and Wiles, *Women of the Long March*, pp. 3-177

**Week 10 (10/26) (conference)**

Movie: "Small Happiness"/ "Blush"

**Week 11 (11/2) Marriage and Family in Communist Revolution: A Liberation?**

1. Ono Kazuko, *Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution*, pp.176-188
- \*2. *The Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China* (1950)
3. Judith Stacey, *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China*, pp. 173-94
- \*4. Ellen Judd, "Reconsidering China's Marriage Law Campaign: Toward a DeOrientalized Feminist Perspective"

**Week 12 (11/9) Women under Mao: Making or unmaking of women's liberation**

1. Judith Stacey, *Patriarchy and Socialist Revolution in China*, pp. 203-47
2. Zhong, Wang, and Bai (eds.), *Some of Us*, pp. 1-26, 27-52
3. Margery Wolf, *Revolution Postponed*, pp. 56-78

**Week 13 (11/16) After Mao Era: Revolution Unfinished?**

1. Margery Wolf, *Revolution Postponed*, pp. 15-27, 112-39
2. Lee, and Wiles, *Women of the Long March*, pp. 186-247
- \*3. Jonathan Ocko, "Women, Property, and Law in the People's Republic of China"

**Week 14 (11/23, Thanksgiving Holiday, no class)**

**Week 15 (11/30) Economic Reform: From Liberation to Equality?**

1. Movie: Ermo
2. Gao, Xiaoxian, "China's Modernization and Changes in Social Status of Rural Women"
- \*3. Li, Xiaojiang, "Economic Reform and the Awakening of Chinese Women's Collective Consciousness"
4. Xin Ran, *The Good Women of China*, pp. 36-93

**Week Final (12/7) Awakening of Women's Consciousness?**

1. Xin Ran, *The Good Women of China*, pp. 94-239

**(Last) Paper Due:** December 9

Paper

Undergraduate students are required to write two short papers (10-12 pages in each) on their chosen topic. Students may also discuss their topic with the instructor if they have questions. The papers should be written based on student's **analytical and interpretative reading of the texts**. Students should make their papers **argumentative rather than descriptive**. The main sources of your paper should come from the class reading materials. The graduate students will write one paper (20-25 pages) with their chosen topic related to the course. All students must turn in their papers in hardcopy with electronic copy (email, CD, or floppy disc) attached.

Discussion and Presentation

The class will be conducted at seminar form and each student is required to do presentation and participate in discussion. Every student will take turn to lead the discussion by doing presentation of the week. The class also requires that each student will submit two questions on the reading of the week before that week's class.

Lateness Policy

All papers should be submitted **in class** on the due date. A late paper will be penalized half a grade down (e.g., from A to A-) each day. After the final examination, no paper would be accepted. Under special circumstances (such as serious illness, injury or a death in the immediate family), you need to provide valid proof to me to request an extension.

Attendance and Absence

It is **your responsibility** to let the professor know that you attended class if you miss the attendance check at the beginning of class.

**Each absence will result in one grade down of your participation** (e. g. from A to B). After missing two meeting, your participation grade would drop to an "F". (If you are absent due to special circumstances described above, you must provide valid proof.) **Anyone missing three classes will automatically receive an F for the entire course!**

Policy on cell-phone, etc.

Please turn off beepers, cellular phones and any other equipment that might disturb lecture or class discussion. If someone's cell phone disturbs the class, she/he may be asked to leave the classroom. His/her leave will be counted as one absence.