Syllabus

WOMEN & GENDER IN CHINA (1949-PRESENT) - 27026

Last update 30-04-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: School of History

Academic year: 2

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Orna Naftali

Coordinator Email: orna.naftali@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wed. 11:30-12:30

Teaching Staff:
  Dr. Orna Naftali
Course/Module description:
The course discusses the transformations in Chinese notions of femininity and masculinity; gender relations, and women's status from 1949 to the present, while considering the interrelationship between these transformations and broader political, economic, and social developments in 20th-century China.

Course/Module aims:
• To survey the main changes in Chinese gender ideologies and gender practices from 1949 to the present
• To describe the Chinese Communist Party's various policies on women's issues and to evaluate the effectiveness of these policies in the Maoist period (1949-76)
• To analyze the impact of liberal economic reforms, the Open Door Policy, and the state's population policy on women's status and on gender relations in China since 1978
• To describe the development of a Chinese public discourse on sex and sexuality from 1949 to the present
• To discuss the relationship between Chinese gender discourses and practices and constructions of class, ethnicity, and national identity in the PRC

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
• Survey the main changes in Chinese women's status, gender ideology and gender norms from 1949 to the present
• Present the Chinese government's central policies concerning women's status in the period of 1949-76, and evaluate the effectiveness of these policies
• Explain why certain gender norms have remained intact in the period of 1949-76 despite the government's attempts to transform them
• Discuss the central transformations in Chinese notions of femininity, masculinity, love and marriage following the introduction of market reform, Open Door Policy, and Population policy in the late 1970s
• Describe the development of Chinese public discourses on sex and sexuality since 1949
• Explain the relationship between gender constructions and the formation of class, ethnic, and national identities in the PRC

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and seminar
Course/Module Content:
1. Introduction
2. Historical background: Women and Gender in China before 1949
3. The socialist Revolution and the New Marriage Law of 1950
4. 'Women's work' in the Maoist period: the countryside
5. 'Women's work' in the Maoist period: urban areas
6. Gender representations in Maoist-era culture
7. Sex and sexuality in the Maoist period
8. The "sexual revolution" in contemporary China (1978-)
9. Constructions of masculinity in contemporary China: Discourse and practice
10. Gender and ethnicity in contemporary China
11. Gender and the population policy
12. Gender, work, and family in the Chinese countryside
13. Gender, work and family in China's urban areas
14. Concluding discussion and presentation of seminar topics

Required Reading:


Additional Reading Material:

n/a

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 30 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 50 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

Optional: Seminar paper (20-25 pages, double-spaced): students who wish to write a seminar paper may do so after submitting a preliminary seminar proposal, which will include their topic of choice and a list of at least 5 reading items related to the topic. Students who plan to write a seminar paper will briefly present their topic of choice in the last lesson.