Syllabus

Gender and Sexuality in Modern China - 8234

Last update 06-11-2016

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: "amirim" honors program

Academic year: 0

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., 12:15-13:15

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Orna Naftali
Course/Module description:
This course traces the changes which have occurred in gender relations and in notions of sex and sexuality in the PRC (1949-present), while exploring the interrelations between these transformations and broader political, social and economic processes in modern and contemporary China. The discussion will draw on theoretical readings in the study of gender and sexuality; historical and contemporary academic studies on China; primary sources, and documentary films.

Course/Module aims:
The course seeks to identify patterns of change and continuity in Chinese government and public discourse about femininity and masculinity, sex and sexuality from the mid-twentieth century to the present. It further aims to critically explore the gender policies of the PRC government while considering the effects of these policies and of elite discourses on the actual views and practices of men and women on the ground. Finally, the course also seeks to examine the interrelationship between ideas and practices of gender and sexuality and the construction of class, national, and ethnic identities in modern and contemporary China.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- Describe the main changes which have occurred in gender and sexuality norms and ideologies from the mid-20th century to the present
- Delineate PRC government policies in the areas of gender and sexuality and evaluate the effects of these policies on the views and behaviors of men and women in practice
- Explain why certain gender norms and practices have remained constant despite the attempts of the Chinese Communist Party to transform them
- Depict the transformations in popular notions of femininity and masculinity, sex and sexuality following the introduction of market reforms, population policy and Open Door Policy in the late 1970s
- Describe the interrelationship between constructions of gender and sexuality and formations of class, ethnic, and national identities in modern and contemporary China

Attendance requirements(%): 100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and seminar
Course/Module Content:
1. Studying Gender and Sexuality: Concepts, Themes and Theories

2. Historical background: Part I: Gender and Sexuality in China before the 20th Century

3. Historical background: Part II: Gender and Sexuality in China in the first half of the 20th Century

4. The Marriage Institution in Maoist-era China (1949-76)

5. Gender, Work, and Family in the Maoist Period

6. Sex and Sexuality in the Maoist Period

7. The "Sexual Revolution" of the Reform Period (1978-)

8. Constructions of Masculinity in Contemporary China

9. Gender and Ethnicity in Contemporary China

10. Gender and the Birth Control Policy

11. Gender, Labor and the Family in Contemporary China

13. Conclusion

Required Reading:


Judge, Joan. 2002. "Citizens or Mothers of Citizens?: Gender and the Meaning of Modern Chinese Citizenship". In Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, eds. Citizenship in Modern China, pp. 23-43 [JQ 1517 A2 C53]


Louie, Kam. 2012. "Popular Culture and Masculinity Ideals in East Asia, with Special


Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 30 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 50 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %
Additional information:
Optional: Students may also submit a research paper for additional 2 credits