



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Gender and Sexuality in Modern China - 8234

Last update 30-08-2018

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:

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 critical reading of 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*
- *Demonstrate an ability for critical thinking and writing on research issues pertaining to gender and sexuality in 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: Gender and Sexuality in China before 1949
3. The Communist Revolution and the Marriage Institution
4. Gender Equality and inequality in Maoist China
5. Sex and Sexuality in the Maoist Period
6. The "Sexual Revolution" of the Reform Period (1978-)
7. Constructions of Masculinity in Contemporary China
8. Gender and Ethnicity in Contemporary China
9. Gender and the Birth Control Policy
10. Gender, Labor and the Family in Contemporary China
11. Conclusion

Required Reading:

**The following list is subject to change. Please consult the class website for the final reading list.*

Wiesner, Merry E. 2011. *Gender in History: Global Perspectives*. Malden, Mass.: Wiley-Blackwell. Introduction, Pp. 1-10 (רשות השאר, בלבד 1-10 'עמ לקרוא)

Butler, Judith. 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge. Excerpts: pp. 6-9, 33, 140-141

Foucault, Michele. 1990 [1978]. *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*. Translated by Robert Hurley. London: Penguin. Part I, "We 'Other Victorians'", Pp. 3-13

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley. 1993. *The Inner Quarters: Marriage and the Lives of*

Chinese Women in the Sung Period. Ch. 1: "Separating the Sexes", pp. 21-44

Louie, Kam, and Louise Edwards. 1994. "Chinese Masculinity: Theorizing Wen and Wu". East Asian History. Vol. 8, pp. 135-148

Diamant, Neil J. 2000. "Re-Examining the Impact of the 1950 Marriage Law: State Improvisation, Local Initiative and Rural Family Change". The China Quarterly. Vol. 161, pp. 171-198

Yang, Wenqi and Fei Yan. 2017. "The Annihilation of Femininity in Mao's China: Gender Inequality of Sent-Down Youth during the Cultural Revolution". China Information. Vol. 31, No. 1, pp. 1-21

Zhang, Everett Yuehong. 2005. "Rethinking Sexual Repression in Maoist China: Ideology, Structure, and the Ownership of the Body". Body and Society. Vol. 11, No. 3, pp. 1-25.

Kam, Lucetta Yip Lo. 2013. Shanghai Lalas: Female Tongzhi Communities and Politics in Urban China. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. Ch. 2: "Public Discussions", pp. 39-58.

Greenhalgh, Susan. 2012. "Patriarchal Demographics? China's Sex Ratio Reconsidered". Population and Development Review. Vol. 38 (SUPPLEMENT), pp. 130-149

Shi, Lihong. 2009. "Little Quilted Vests to Warm Parents' Hearts": Redefining the Gendered Practice of Filial Piety in Rural Northeastern China". The China Quarterly, Vol. 198, pp. 348-363

Zheng, Tiantian. 2015. "Masculinity in Crisis: Effeminate Men, Loss of Manhood, and the Nation-State in Postsocialist China. Etnográfica, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 347-365

Walsh, Eileen Rose. 2005. "From Nü Guo to Nü'er Guo: Negotiating Desire in the Land of the Mosuo". Modern China. Vol. 31, No. 4, pp. 448-486

Additional Reading Material:
None

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 15 %
Participation in Tutorials 5 %
Project work 50 %
Assignments 30 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

Optional: Students may submit a research paper instead of the final essay (worth 50% of the overall grade)