

<b>Course Title</b>	: HISTORY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN CHINA
<b>Course Code</b>	: HST3359
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Sectional approach
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 3 hours per week
<b>Category in Major Prog.</b>	: Elective
<b>Prerequisites</b>	: None
<b>Co-requisites</b>	: None
<b>Exclusions</b>	: None
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	: None

### **Brief Course Description**

This course offers a brief introduction to the history of women and children in China from ancient times to the present. The course will begin with an examination of gender and age roles as defined by Confucian norms, the state, kinships, and other political, social and legal institutions in China. Then, we will explore women's techniques for existence in domestic and non-domestic realms, as well as the meaning and process of "growing up" in late imperial China. Finally, the course will discuss women and children in the changing phase of modern China. Readings will include primary sources (in Chinese and translation) to the greatest extent possible.

### **Aims**

The course seeks to help students better understand Chinese history from the perspective of women and children and their roles in Chinese society.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the concepts and structures governing the lives of women and children in traditional China, and the ways in which they both changed and continued.
- 2) Assess how modern changes in society, economy, and polity have affected Chinese women and children both positively and negatively.
- 3) Evaluate and analyze, in discussion and in writing, gender and family policy and practice in China, both historically and in contemporary life.
- 4) Interpret primary sources related to women and children in light of their historical context.

### **Indicative Content**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Gender Theory and Social History
  - B. Traditional Interpretations of Chinese Women and Children
- II. Women and Children in Confucian Philosophy
  - A. The Role of Family in Society
  - B. Public and Private Spheres
  - C. Politics and Patriarchy

- III. Women in Imperial China
  - A. Marriage
  - B. Work and the Home
  - C. Motherhood
  - D. Women and Writing
- IV. Childhood in Imperial China
  - A. Child Development and Public Morality
  - B. Parent-Child Relationships
- V. Gender, Nationalism, and Modernity
  - A. Women's New Political Role
  - B. The New Culture Movement
  - C. Childhood and Childbearing
- VI. Women and the Communist Revolution
  - A. Women in Communist Ideology
  - B. Political Parties and Women's Support
  - C. "Women Can 'Hold up Half of the Sky'"
- VII. Women and Children in the Post-Mao Era
  - A. Market Reforms and Women
  - B. Educational Reform
  - C. The One-Child Policy

### **Teaching Method**

Lectures will provide interpretative analysis of the materials covered in the readings. Class discussions will focus on assigned readings. There will be special emphasis on group discussion and projects where groups will consist of both male and female students in order to facilitate the exchange of views on gender issues across the gender divide.

### **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

- 1) Final exam testing knowledge of the historical and contemporary situation of Chinese women and children. (LOs 1, 2, and 3)
- 2) Written assignments requiring ability to synthesize various sources as well as analyze the degree and the outcomes of change over time. (LOs 3, 4)
- 3) Class discussion and presentations focusing on primary and secondary sources as they relate to gender and family policy and practice. (LOs 1, 2, 3, 4)

### **Assessment**

Continuous Assessment: 60%

    Research Paper: 40%

    Participation: 20%

Examination: 40%

### **Required Readings**

Selections will be taken from the following works:

Chang, Jung, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*, New York, Random House, 1991.

Ebrey, Patricia, *Women and the Family in Chinese History*, New York, Routledge, 2002.

Gilmartin, Christina K. et al. (eds.), *Engendering China: women, culture, and the state*,

- Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1994.
- Honig, Emily and Gail Hershatter, *Personal Voices: Chinese Women in the 1980's*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988.
- Kinney, Anne B., *Chinese Views of Childhood*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 1995.
- Ko, Dorothy, *Teachers of the Inner Chambers: women and culture in seventeenth-century China*, Stanford: Stanford University, 1995.
- Jing, Jun, *Feeding China's Little Emperors: Food, Children, and Social Change*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000.
- Mann, Susan and Yu-yin Cheng, *Under Confucian Eyes: Writings on Gender in Chinese History*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 2000.
- Shen, Fu, *Six Records of a Floating Life*, translated by Leonard Pratt, et. al., Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1983.
- Thakur, Ravni, *Rewriting gender: reading contemporary Chinese women*, London, Atlantic Highlands, N.J., Zed Books, 1996.
- 沈復：《浮生六記》，長沙：湖南文藝出版社，1995。
- 張戎（原著）、張朴（譯）：《鴻：三代中國女人的故事》，台北：中華，1994。
- 熊秉真：《童年憶往：中國孩子的歷史》，台北：麥田出版股份有限公司，2000。
- 範丹妮（主編）：《中國獨生子女研究》，上海：華東師範大學出版社，1996。
- 戴晴、洛格：《纏足女子：當代中國女性問題》，香港：明報出版有限公司，1996。

### Supplementary Readings

- Bray, Francesca, *Technology and Gender: Fabrics of Power in Late Imperial China*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 1997.
- Cao, Xueqin, *The Story of the Stone: A Chinese Novel in Five Volumes*, translated by David Hawkes, Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1973-1986.
- Eastman, Lloyd, *Family, Fields, and Ancestors, 1550-1949: Constancy and Change in China's Social and Economic History*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1988.
- 王國敏（主編）：《20世紀的中國婦女》，成都：四川大學人民出版社，2000。
- 陳東原：《中國婦女生活史》，台北：商務印書館，1981。
- 曹雪芹、高鶚：《紅樓夢》，台北：聯經出版事業公司，1991。
- 黃嫣梨：《妝臺與妝臺以外：中國婦女史研究論集》，香港：牛津大學出版社，1999。
- 劉士聖：《中國古代婦女史》，青島：青島出版社，1991。
- 羅蘇文：《女性與近代中國社會》，上海：上海人民出版社，1996。

### Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.

