

University of Kentucky, College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Department office: 1055 Patterson Office Tower, (859) 257-3761

CHI 320 Gender Politics in Modern Chinese Literature and Culture

Class time: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:15 pm
Class location: Whitehall Classroom Building Room 345

Professor Liang LUO
Office: 971 Patterson Office Tower
Office hours: Wednesday 2-2:50 pm and by appointment
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Course Description:

This course focuses on gender relations and the representation of women and sexuality in twentieth-century Chinese literature and culture. Some specific topics include: how eroticism and cross-dressing intersect with Confucian ideology and its social structure; how the utopian desire for modernity is projected onto the images of the New Woman and westernized Modern Girl; and how women writers intervene within the constraints of the political and social contexts and actively participate in cultural production and consumption. We will take an interdisciplinary, multimedia approach to gender relations in modern fiction, film, memoir, and other cultural genres, and critically engage such topics as the complicated relationships between women's issues and national discourse, identity and performance, the construction of female subjectivity and male fantasy, and between gender and genre.

Required readings:

All required readings and A/V materials should be available through Blackboard and/or be on reserve in the Young Library (and the Young Media Library)

Important due dates:

Web response due: every Wednesday at 12 noon on Blackboard starting **January 28**
Midterm paper due: Wednesday **March 11** at 3 pm before class
Final presentation: Monday **April 20** and Wednesday **April 22** during class time
Final paper/project due: Monday **April 27** at 3 pm before class
Take-home final exam due: Wednesday **April 29** at 3 pm before class

Course requirements and grading components:

Value critical thinking, class participation, and originality in conducting research: class attendance 10%; class participation 10%; weekly web response 15%; midterm paper 15%; final presentation 10%; final paper/project 20%; take-home final exam 20%

10% Attendance to class meeting is mandatory. For the second and each subsequent unexcused absence, the attendance grade will be lowered by 2 points (out of 10). More

than five unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. An excused absence requires a written note from your doctor or the equivalent.

10% I deeply value the quality of class participation. You must finish readings before coming to class. You must write down notes when reading and bring notes to each class meeting to facilitate class discussion. You may be requested to submit/circulate your notes in class. 2 extra credits will be given out for active participation in class discussion.

15% Write a 1-2 paragraph response based on your reading notes and post it on the Discussion Board on Blackboard by every **Wednesday at 12 noon starting January 28**. You need to present a coherent idea in the paragraph(s). It can range from your response to a quote in the reading, your remark on lecture or class discussion, or your comment on current affairs in relation to the topic we are studying. Always cite source materials if you are quoting from others. A sample student post can be found on the Blackboard site.

15% Midterm 4-5 page paper will be due on **Wednesday March 11 at 3 pm before class**. All papers must be handed in as hard copies to the instructor in person. No electronic submission will be accepted. There will be no deadline extensions. Papers received after the deadline will lose 1 point (out of 15) every hour they are late. Your paper should be neatly formatted and double-spaced. Make sure the following information is on the front page of your paper: the title of the course, your name, and the title of your paper. Also, please number your pages. A sample student paper can be found on the Blackboard site. Your paper must have a central argument, which should be summarized at or near the beginning of the essay. It is important that you do a close reading of the text you choose to analyze in your paper. Do not just repeat or summarize lectures and readings. Instead, present textual evidence that support your point of view based on critical thinking. Pay attention to academic style and document your sources. Use footnotes. Be consistent. Finally, remember that originality counts!

10% You will have the opportunity to present your final paper/project in a mini-conference format on **Monday April 20 and Wednesday April 22** during class time. You can then gather feedback to your paper/project and revise it for final submission. Refreshments will be served, and parents and friends welcome. A sample student conference program can be found on the Blackboard site.

20% Final 8-10 page paper or creative project due on **Monday April 27 at 3 pm before class**. The above instructions for the midterm paper also apply to the final paper. However, if you are developing an idea in your first paper, you must have substantial improvement in the final paper, such as adding in-depth analysis of texts, adding texts for comparison, and utilizing at least 5 outside bibliographical sources. You are encouraged to develop your ideas into a creative project such as an MTV or a short film. A sample student film can be found on the Blackboard site.

20% A take-home final exam will be handed out after the final review session on Monday April 27 and it will be due on **Wednesday April 29 at 3 pm before class**.

Grading scales:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- E: under 60 (failing grades)

Academic Resources:

There are many wonderful resources on campus including a free peer tutoring program at The Study; The Hub @ WT's which provides library research assistance and IT help in one convenient location; a writing center at <http://www.uky.edu/AS/English/wc/> where you can get excellent help with academic writing; and the web portal to 15 libraries throughout campus at <http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/>. Academic honesty is the key to the success of any serious study and plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable in this course.

Here is a link to "Plagiarism: What is it?"

<http://webz.uky.edu/html/tutorial/research/plagiarism.shtml>.

Any student with a disability who is taking this course and needs classroom or other academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center, (859) 257-2754, room 2 Alumni Gym, jkarnes@uky.edu.

Website and audio-visual components:

A Blackboard site for this course has been set up. The website includes the syllabus, PowerPoint presentations (after lecture), handouts, my contact information, online discussion forum, and other A/V and web materials. A/V facilities are crucial to the success of this course, and PowerPoint presentations will be used on a regular basis in the classroom.

Highly recommended background Readings:

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (New York: Norton, 1999)

Sue Williams dir., *China: a Century of Revolution* (1997, an excellent documentary film, 6 hours).

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1 Introduction

W 1/14 Introduction to the Course Syllabus

Week 2 Women in the Private and Public Spheres

M 1/19 MLK Day, no class

W 1/21 Women in the Public: The Case of Qiu Jin and Female Revolutionaries

Chia-lin Pao Tao, "Historical Introduction," *Chinese Studies in History*, vol. 34, no. 2 (Winter 2000-2001), pp. 5-9.

Ono Kazuko, "Women in the 1911 Revolution," in *Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution, 1850-1950*, pp. 54-92.

Week 3 The May Fourth Movement and the Woman Question

M 1/26 The Founding Fathers

Kirk Denton, "[Lu Xun biography](#)" (Modern Chinese Literature and Culture Website)
Lu Xun, "My Views on Chastity," pp 8-18; Hu Shi, "The Biography of Li Chao," pp. 89-100; and Cai Yuanpei, "Words Spoken at Miss Li Chao's Memorial Service," pp. 100-101, in *Women in Republican China: a sourcebook*.

W 1/28 The Woman Question

Lu Xun, "New Year's Sacrifice," pp. 219-241.
Rou Shi, "Slave Mother," in *Modern Chinese Stories and Novellas 1919-1949*, ed. Joseph Lau, C.T. Hsia and Leo Ou-fan Lee, Columbia University Press, 1981, pp. 208-219.

First web response due on January 28 at 12 noon and will be due every Wednesday at noon on Blackboard

Week 4 May Fourth Women Writers

M 2/2 School Girl Writers

Feng Yuanjun, "Separation," pp. 101-113.
Shi Pingmei, "Lin Nan's Diary," pp. 115-130.

W 2/4 Female Sexuality on Display

Ding Ling, "Miss Sophia's Diary," pp. 49-81.

Week 5 Gendered Locations

M 2/9 Metropolitan Shanghai

Mao Dun, *Midnight*, chapter one, pp. 9-32
Shi Zhecun: "One Evening in a Raining Season," pp. 126-135.

W 2/11 Imaginary Nostalgia

In-class screening: clips from *A Girl from Hunan*

Shen Congwen, "Xiaoxiao," in *Modern Chinese Stories and Novellas 1919-1949*, ed. Joseph Lau, C.T. Hsia and Leo Ou-fan Lee, Columbia University Press, 1981, pp. 227-236.

Week 6 Women in the Public: the Case of Ruan Lingyu and Film Actresses

M 2/16 The Queen of Shanghai Cinema

In-class screening: *The Goddess* (Dir. Wu Yonggang, 1934)

W 2/18 Ruan Lingyu: Legend and Reality

In-class clips: *New Woman*, dir. by Cai Chusheng (1934); *Center Stage*. Dir. by Stanley Kwan, 1992.

Kristine Harris, "The New Woman Incident: Cinema, Scandal, and Spectacle in 1935 Shanghai," in Sheldon Hsiao-peng Lu ed., *Transnational Chinese Cinemas: Identity, Nationhood, Gender*, University of Hawai'i Press, 1997: 277-302.

Week 7 Cross-dressing

M 2/23 The Politics of Peking Opera

In-class clips: *Farewell my Concubine* (1993), dir. Chen Kaige
Joshua Goldstein, "Mei Lanfang and the Nationalization of the Peking Opera, 1912-1930." *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 7, 2 (Fall 1999): 377-420.

W 2/25 Cross-dressing and Nationalist Discourse

Chang-tai Hung, "Female Symbols of Resistance: Patriotic Courtesans and Women Warriors," *War and Popular Culture: Resistance in Modern China, 1937-1945*, University of California Press, 1994, pp. 64-78.

Week 8 Wartime Culture

M 3/2 The Public War

Xie Bingying. Lily Chia Brissman and Barry Brissman, trs. *A Woman Soldier's Own Story*. New York: Berkeley Books, 2001. pp. 51-91.

W 3/4 The Private War

Eileen Chang, "Love in a Fallen City." Trans. Karen Kingsbury. *Renditions*. 45 (Spring 1996). pp. 61-92.

Week 9 Women in the Socialist Discourse

M 3/9 Revolutionary Female Youth

WANG Zheng, "Call me *qingnian* but not *funü*: a Maoist Youth in Retrospect," *Some of Us: Chinese Women Growing up during the Mao Era*. Edited by Xueping Zhong, Wang Zheng, and Bai Di. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2001. pp. 27-52.

W 3/11 The Representation of Woman in Popular Propaganda

[Stefan Landsberger's Chinese propaganda poster page](#)

Midterm paper due on Wednesday March 11 at 3 pm before class

Spring Vacation

M 3/16 No class

W 3/18 No class

Week 10 Revolutionary Heroines

M 3/23 Performing Gender in Maoist Ballet

In-class clips: *White Haired Girl*, *Red Lantern*, and *Red Detachment of Women*
Rosemary Robers, "[Performing Gender in Maoist Ballet](#): Mutual Subversions of Genre and Ideology in *The Red Detachment of Women*," in *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific*, issue 16, March 2008.

W 3/25 Female Images and National Myth

Meng Yue: "Female Images and National Myth," *Gender Politics in Modern China*, Duke University Press, 1993: 118-136.

Week 11 Gender politics during the Cultural Revolution

M 3/30 Revolutionary female youth

Xiaomei Chen, "Growing Up with Posters during the Cultural Revolution: Gendered Body, Cross-dressing and Androgyny in Maoist China," in Stephanie Donald and Harriet Evan, eds., *Picturing Power in China: Posters of the Cultural Revolution*. London: Rowman and Littlefield, 1999, pp. 101-122

W 4/1 Petty bourgeois house wife

Wang Anyi: *Lapse of Time*

Week 12 The Periphery as the Center

M 4/6 Taipei Modern

Zhu Tianwen [Chu Tien-wen], "Fin-de-siècle Splendor," in Joseph S. M. Lau and Howard Goldblatt eds., *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995. pp. 444-459.

W 4/8 The June Fourth Movement and the Goddess of Democracy

[The Gate of Heavenly Peace Documentary and Website](#)

Week 13 The Politics of Sexuality in the Age of Globalization

M 4/13 Shanghai Baby and Beijing Doll

Wei Hui, *Shanghai Baby*, Robinson, 2001, pp. 1-37.

W 4/15 The Politics of Androgyny in Contemporary China

From masculine Super Girl to feminine Happy Boy

Week 14 Mini-conference of final project presentations

M 4/20 Final presentations

W 4/22 Final presentations

Week 15 Final Review

M 4/27 Final review and hand out take-home final exam

Final paper/project due on April 27 at 3 pm

W 4/29 In-class screening

Take-home final exam due on April 29 at 3 pm