AEAS 270 (#8355)/AWSS 270 (#8356)

Women in East Asian Literature

Fall 2017 TTH 2:45PM-4:05PM
HU-123

Dr. Fan Pen Chen
Office hours: Tu & Th 1:00-2:00; and by appointment.
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Course Description: East Asia is a culturally rich and complex area of the world that includes societies as diverse as China, Japan, Vietnam and Korea. Frequently, the cultures of these societies are presented through discourses that assume the supremacy of patriarchal values. In this course, we will examine one of the most fascinating yet neglected aspects of these societies, the histories and portrayals of women through literary works. The course will focus on China and Japan, two of the most complex and influential societies globally. It will treat questions such as: “What can one deduce from the early literary sources concerning women and their societies?”; “Why do some people perceive gender related issues certain ways?”; and “Why are women depicted certain ways?”

This course satisfies the Gen Ed requirements for “Humanities” and “International Perspectives.”

This course has no prerequisites and no prior knowledge of East Asian languages or cultures is required.

Course Goals:

- Acquire basic knowledge regarding the geography and the history of women in China and Japan.
- Take a piece of historical or literary writing and infer from it implications concerning gender and the culture which produced it.
- Change the traditional mindset by analyzing the influence and working system of matrilineal structures.
- Know how to support your ideas by using evidence in literature.
- Able to suggest underlying reasons that inform portrayals of women that you might encounter.
Textbook:


This textbook will be available at the University Book Store. The readings in it and other materials will be available through the Blackboard Learning System (BLS). Students are responsible for printing the materials and bringing them to class. The use of smartphones in class is prohibited, this includes the use of smartphones to access reading materials.

YOU WILL NEED TO PURCHASE AND REGISTER AN ICLICKER. The iClicker can be purchased at the University Book Store. To register your iClicker: Log into the Blackboard Learning System, choose this course, click the “iClicker Registration”, fill in your iClicker Remote ID, and click the “Submit” button.

Grading:

The final grade will consist of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RATS (3x6% each (average of individual and team score)(drop 1))</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-Quizzes (drop 3)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography Quiz (not droppable)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term (not droppable)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (not droppable)</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Evaluations 2x3.5% each</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group presentation (not droppable)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Numerical scores will be converted to course grades according to the following scale:

- 93-100% = A;
- 90-92.99% = A-;
- 87-89.99% = B+;
- 83-86.99% = B;
- 80-82.99% = B-;
- 77-79.99% = C+;
- 73-76.99% = C;
- 70-72.99% = C-;
- 67-69.99% = D+;
- 63-66.99% = D;
- 60-62.99% = D-;
- 0-59.99% = E.

Course Requirements:

- **Readiness Assessment Tests (RATs):** At the beginning of each unit of study (see schedule below), you will take a short test to assess your comprehension of assigned readings aimed at covering basic concepts to be built on the rest of the unit. You will take each RAT twice: once as an individual and once as a team. Your individual and team scores will be averaged to create your final score on each RAT. Because the process of completing the RAT as a team is essential to the experience of the course, there will be no opportunities for make-up RATs.
You will have the option of dropping your lowest RAT score at the end of the semester; this may be used to accommodate an absence or a poor performance.

- **Mini-Quizzes:** You will be given a study guide for preparing for each Mini-Quiz the class before. Please check the Blackboard Learning System for it. Since you cannot receive credit for the Mini-Quizzes if you are absent, missing class means earning an automatic “0” credit for the quizzes and activities missed. *No make-up opportunities will be available for the Mini-Quizzes and In-Class Activities.* The three lowest grades of this component of your grade will be dropped.

- **Geography Quiz:** There will be a map quiz of China and Japan to satisfy one of the General Education requirements of this course. A study guide will be provided to help you prepare for it. This grade is not droppable.

- **Mid-Term and Final:** These exams will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. You will complete the multiple choice questions individually, and the essay questions both individually and in teams. *There will be no opportunities for make-up essays.* These grades are not droppable.

- **Peer Evaluations:** Each individual’s contribution to team work will be assessed by his or her teammates at the midterm point and again at the end of the semester.

- **Group Presentation:** Students will recreate a piece of traditional literature into a contemporary piece and enact or present it with explanations of why the group decided to make the changes it did.

- **E-Mail:** The professor contacts you via your university email address. Please check it regularly.

- **iClicker:** Be sure to bring your Clicker to every class. The Mini-Quizzes, the individual part of the RAT (Readiness Assessment Test), and some of the activities will be administered using the iClicker. You will receive “0” for a Mini-Quiz, if you forget to bring your Clicker to the class for that Mini-Quiz. (Consider it as one of your droppable grades).

- **Required Readings:** You are required to bring the required readings to every class for which they have been assigned in order to go over them or refer to them in class.

**Class rules:**

*No make-up opportunities will be available* for the RATs, the Mini-Quizzes/Activities, and the team component of the Midterm and Final exams. Please use the droppable grade opportunities wisely to accommodate planned and unplanned absences, and the
day/s when you forget to bring your IClicker for a Mini-Quiz or a graded activity that requires its use. A Dean’s Excuse is necessary for re-taking the geography test and the individual component of the exams.

The acquisition and demonstration of good ethical standards is one of the goals at our university. Plagiarism and any other form of “cheating” are unacceptable and they will be reported to the corresponding university authorities. You are responsible for reading the undergraduate students’ manual online for greater familiarity with the university rules and regulations which also apply to our class.

**Characteristics of all General Education Courses**

1. General Education courses offer introductions to the central topics of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
2. They offer explicit rather than tacit understandings of the procedures, practices, methodology and fundamental assumptions of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
3. They recognize multiple perspectives on the subject matter.
4. They emphasize active learning in an engaged environment that enables students to be producers as well as consumers of knowledge.
5. They promote critical inquiry into the assumptions, goals, and methods of various fields of academic study; they aim to develop the interpretive, analytic, and evaluative competencies characteristic of critical thinking.

**Learning Objectives for General Education Humanities Courses**

Humanities courses teach students to analyze and interpret texts, ideas, artifacts, and discourse systems, and the human values, traditions, and beliefs that they reflect. Humanities courses enable students to demonstrate knowledge of the assumptions, methods of study, and theories of at least one of the disciplines within the humanities. Depending on the discipline, humanities courses will enable students to demonstrate some or all of the following:

- an understanding of the objects of study as expressions of the cultural contexts of the people who created them;
- an understanding of the continuing relevance of the objects of study to the present and to the world outside the university;
- an ability to employ the terms and understand the conventions particular to the discipline;
• an ability to analyze and assess the strengths and weaknesses of ideas and positions along with the reasons or arguments that can be given for and against them;

• an understanding of the nature of the texts, artifacts, ideas, or discourse of the discipline and of the assumptions that underlie this understanding, including those relating to issues of tradition and canon.

**Learning Objectives for General Education International Perspectives**

Courses in the General Education category of International Perspectives enable students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the history and/or culture of regions beyond Europe, through:

• knowledge of the distinctive features (e.g. history, institutions, economies, societies, cultures) of one region beyond Europe or European North America;

• an understanding of the region from the perspective of its people(s);

• an ability to analyze and contextualize cultural and historical materials relevant to the region;

• an ability to locate and identify distinctive geographical features of the region;

**Course Schedule**

*(Details on the required readings and Mini-Quizzes will be posted on the Blackboard Learning System, one UNIT at a time)*

**PRE-UNIT: Introduction and overview**

8/29 – Introduction.

8/31 – Teams; **RAT on the syllabus**; lecture on Chinese history.

9/5 – lecture on Chinese and Japanese history.

Mini-quiz on Chinese history (see BLS for guide)

9/7 – **Geography Quiz** (guide on BLS; bring your university ID# and a dark colored pen)

**UNIT I: Women in Traditional Chinese Literature**

9/12 – **RAT on Unit I**; “Lessons for Women” by Ban Zhao (Han dynasty) and “The Analects for Women” by Song Ruoxin (Tang dynasty).

Lecture on gender in the main Chinese philosophies.
9/14 – “A Peacock Southeast Flew”  
Mini-Quiz on the reading (5 questions)

9/19 – “Painted Skin”  
Mini-Quiz on the reading (5 questions)

9/21 – NO CLASS

9/26 – “Scholar Tan”; readings from the Book of Songs. (5 questions on “Scholar Tan” only)

9/28 – Film on different marriage systems in China

UNIT II: Women in Traditional Japanese Literature

10/3 – RAT on Unit II (see Unit 2 Schedule on the BLS)

10/5 – Unit II continued.

10/10 – Unit II continued.

10/12 – Unit II continued.


10/19 - Unit II continued.

UNIT III: Vestiges of Matriliny in Chinese and Japanese Literature

10/24 – RAT on Unit III (see Unit 3 Schedule on the BLS)

10/26 – NO CLASS (group meeting for the presentation project)

10/31 – Unit III continued.

11/2 – Unit III continued.

11/7 – Unit III continued.

11/9 – Unit III continued.
UNIT IV: Women’s Writings

11/14 – RAT on Unit IV (see Unit 4 Schedule on the BLS)

11/16 – Unit IV continued.

11/21 – NO CLASS (Home study of Concept Maps)

11/23 – NO CLASS

11/28 – Unit IV continued.

11/30 – Unit IV continued.

12/5 – Group Presentations.

12/7 – Group Presentations.

FINAL EXAM: Dec 14  10:30am-12:30pm