

POSCI 257: Politics of Women's Rights in East Asia

Spring 2007
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Email: fischler@moravian.edu
Class: M, W 5b (12:50-2:00 pm)

Office Hours: T, Th 10:30 am-12:30 pm and other times by appointment.

Course Description

This course explores the history and politics of women's rights in China and Japan. The course begins with a brief historical overview of gender relations under each country's political system. Next, the course examines the impact of politics on women's status in contemporary China and Japan. By focusing on different women's issues, the course also provides a comparative perspective on women's struggles for equality and other rights in the two countries. This course is **writing intensive** and fulfills the **M5 LinC** requirement.

Goals and Objectives

- a) Learn about the social, cultural, economic, and political factors that have shaped women's lives and struggles for women's rights in East Asia over the 20th and 21st centuries.
- b) Understand different, but equally valid points of view by which to analyze struggles for women's rights and women's situations
- c) Improve critical thinking and analytical writing skills, particularly as concerns women in different non-Western political systems.
- d) Develop comprehension of comparative research methods and questions as related to the study of gender in East Asian politics.

Course Guidelines

1. All work must be submitted on due date for full credit. **Late assignments are NOT accepted.**

2. All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, printed, stapled, use complete sentences, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. All assignments must be personally handed to the instructor. No handwritten assignments will be accepted. No emailed assignments will be accepted **except in case of emergencies and not without prior permission of the instructor.**

3. Regular attendance is expected. Assigned work can only be made up 1) after an in-person discussion with the instructor and 2) in cases of **appropriately documented** family emergencies, extended leave, or school sponsored-commitments. If an emergency should arise, you must notify me prior to an assignment's due date and not after. If you plan to miss a class please notify me in advance. Students are allowed a maximum of three absences within this semester. If you miss class more than the allowed times, 5% will be deducted from your final course grade. Another 5% will be deducted from your final course grade for each additional absence. Two late arrivals to

class will be counted as an absence. Please be aware that absences are not divided into excused and unexcused. Regardless of the reason, an absence from class is counted as an absence.

4. In case of any crisis or emergency, or an extended absence from class, you must inform your professor through Learning Services or the Academic Dean's Office.

5. Learning disability accommodations: students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities should contact Learning Services (x1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

6. These guidelines are intended for the benefit of the students as far as clarification of the instructor's expectations for the course; however, in exceptional circumstances the instructor reserves the right to exercise discretion in the application of these guidelines to individual cases or to refer a particular case to the Academic Dean if necessary.

Classroom Expectations

- 1) Respect for others' answers and views. Disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken.
- 2) Equal time for opposing opinions.
- 3) Please turn off cell phones in class. If yours rings during class, you will be dismissed from class and counted as absent.
- 4) Non-alcoholic drinks are allowed in class, other food is not.
- 5) Attention to course related material only.
- 6) Necessary breaks at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Texts: Available at the college bookstore-

- Honig, Emily and Gail Hershatter. *Personal Voices: Chinese Women in the 1980's*. CA: Stanford University Press, 1988.
- Tao Jie, et al., eds. *Holding Up Half The Sky: Chinese Women Past, Present, and Future*. NY: Feminist Press, 2004.
- Fujimura-Fanselow, Kumiko and Atsuko Kameda, eds. *Japanese Women: New Feminist Perspective on the Past, Present, and Future*. NY: Feminist Press, 1995.
- Ye Weili, et al. *Growing Up in the People's Republic: Conversations Between Two Daughters of China's Revolution*. NY: Palgrave MacMillan, 2005.

Course Requirements

A. Graded Requirements

Class Participation-20% of your final grade. Class participation includes coming to class on a very consistent basis, keeping up with assigned readings by thoroughly reading and thinking about the readings before coming to class, active involvement in interactive

lectures, substantive contributions to discussions, and engagement with in-class activities. For class participation, **effort counts heavily. Attempting to answer a question, asking a question, or voicing an opinion are all part of participation.** I will evaluate your participation highly if you: a) attend class regularly; b) discuss the videos and readings I make available; c) raise relevant questions/offer thoughtful comments; d) demonstrate you understand the material by your full involvement during in-class activities. Every class session is counted toward your final participation grade. **If you do not participate actively in each class, you will reduce your participation grade by 50% for each given day.**

Critical Reasoning Paper-15% of your grade. The critical reasoning paper will be due in **week twelve**. See the syllabus for the exact date. The paper will be based on material chosen from the book, *Growing Up in the People's Republic*. No outside research or reading will be part of this paper. The paper is to be 2-3 pages, typed, single-spaced, size 12 font. The paper must be at least two full pages and no more than three full pages, single-spaced type. The paper will consist of five paragraphs and is designed to answer a set of critically analytical questions in relation to the topic of the course, women's rights, as covered in the book, *Growing Up in The People's Republic*. Critical reasoning papers will be graded according to the rubric for written assignments provided below. Detailed instructions for the paper format and content are attached to this syllabus and will be discussed in class during the first week of the term. On this paper, I encourage you to seek help from the Writing Center. Although short, the assignment asks you to think clearly and to write concisely about a given subject. Writing Center tutors can be very helpful in this process. You will also be expected to proofread the paper and use correct citations according to either MLA or *Chicago Manual of Style* formats. Points will be deducted for grammar errors, spelling mistakes, incorrect citations, and failure to cite material. While the topic of plagiarism and examples of correct quotation and citation format, paraphrasing, and summarizing will be covered in some class sessions, seeking help from the Writing Center can only improve your work.

Critical Memo Papers- There are two critical memo papers in this class. Each paper is worth 20% of your grade. Each paper needs to be 4-5 pages and consist of three distinct sections. You will need to divide your paper into these three sections and to label them clearly (e.g. Section I, Section II, Section III) so that 1) you can be graded on how well you accomplished the task set for each section and 2) there is no confusion as to what portion of your paper addresses each section. Critical Memo papers will be graded according to the rubric for written assignments provided below. These papers are designed to have you carefully consider the readings you have done, to demonstrate how well you can critically analyze them, and to have you draw conclusions as to what the assigned material suggests about both East Asian and world politics. Detailed instructions for the paper format and content are attached to this syllabus and will be discussed in class during week five of the term. You will also be expected to proofread the paper and use correct citations according to either MLA or *Chicago Manual of Style* formats. Points will be deducted for grammar errors, spelling mistakes, incorrect citations, and failure to cite material. The first paper will be **due in**

week four; the second in **week eight**. Check the syllabus for exact due dates. The suggestions for using the Writing Center on this paper are the same as for the Critical Reasoning paper (see the section above).

Paper rewrite- 10% of your grade. You will be required to rewrite one of the three papers assigned for this class (Critical Reasoning paper or one of the Critical Memo papers). This rewrite will be **due in week fourteen**; check the syllabus for the exact due date. Because this course is writing intensive, this assignment will give you the chance not only to gain skills in editing your own work but also to improve your writing. Rewrites will be graded according to the rubric for written assignments provided below. Remember that rewriting a paper consists not just of correcting any spelling, grammar, or citation errors, but also in rethinking and significantly rewriting your paper. This means reorganizing the paper, revising thesis statements and topic sentences, and making additions or corrections to arguments and illustrations of your points. Once again, seeking help from the Writing Center for this assignment is highly recommended.

Bi-weekly email questions-15 % of your final grade. Every other week, beginning in the first week and ending in week thirteen, you will be required to email me a critical question based on the assigned readings in that two week period. The question must be in the form of a “how,” “why,” or “in what way(s)” question. It cannot take the form of a “who,” “what,” “when,” or “where” question. You are not asked to provide the answer to the question, only the question itself. However, because many of these questions will be used in class discussions, it would be useful for you to have some sense of what a possible answer to the question might be when you come to class. This will help your active participation in discussion. Remember, in discussion it is effort rather than always giving a correct answer that counts. Email questions to me at: fischler@moravian.edu. These questions are due by 4:30 p.m. on each Wednesday of weeks beginning with odd numbers, but see the syllabus for specific due dates (they are all marked). I will check my email at that time. Make sure your email is in by then. The best way to approach this is not to wait until the Wednesday the question is due, but to email it to me well in advance. I will accept emailed questions at any time within each two week period. So, if an intriguing question catches you in the reading, email it to me. This will insure that you avoid any computer malfunctions (which are not an accepted excuse for late emailed questions). Emailed questions will be worth 10 points each and will be graded according to the rubric for written assignments provided below.

Pop quizzes-If class discussions do not yield evidence of careful reading and thought, I may administer unannounced (“pop”) quizzes. These quizzes will be factored in as part of your participation grade (20 points each). These quizzes will help me determine if quiet students are keeping silent because they are shy or because they are not keeping up with the reading assignments. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

B. Grade Components

Your final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Bi-weekly email questions	15%
Class Participation	20%

Critical Reasoning paper	15%
Critical Memo paper I	20%
Critical Memo Paper II	20%
Rewrite of one paper	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Guidelines (Rubric) for Written Assignments (Written by Ben Slote and modified slightly by Ann Bomberger)

1) Written work in the A range is based on an original, logical and coherently organized set of ideas; it makes a clear and persuasive argument (even if the reader disagrees with its argument); it brings in specific, relevant examples to back up its assertions; its points, at each turn, are clearly articulated: the words carry precise meaning, they don't obscure it; its sentences use only the words their ideas require, not any more; its paragraphs have distinct though related roles in the essay's cohesion as a whole, each holding one thoroughly asserted idea (not two competing ideas, not one idea half-asserted); if appropriate it accurately and thoughtfully uses other sources; and its sentences are without the grammatical, spelling, or typographical mistakes that exacting proof-reading would catch. (All of this takes a lot of work. If it is all very nearly accomplished, the essay usually earns an A-.)

2) Written work in the B range: a very good paper, the writing of which is clearly, thoughtfully, and effectively executed. What sometimes prevents an "A" is a lack of originality, thorough thinking or careful proofreading. If two of these virtues are absent and the other areas of the paper are strong, the essay will usually earn a B-.

3) Written work in the C range: some conspicuous flaw usually earns an essay a C; its argument is really underdeveloped, it contains only minimal textual support, it has problems with organization and/or sentence clarity, it is in dire need of proofreading.

4) Written D work either contains more than one of the large problems cited in the "C" description or finds another way to convince its reader that the author has not spent nearly enough time on the thinking or writing in the essay.

5) Written work that earns an F misses on all criteria (originality, articulateness, persuasiveness, organization, the absence of mechanical mistakes).

Final Grade Scale

93-100	A
90-92.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
83-86.9	B
80-82.9	B-
77-79.9	C+
73-76.9	C
70-72.9	C-
67-69.9	D+
63-66.9	D
60-62.9	D-
less than 60	F

Note: It is within the instructor’s purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignment and for the course final grade.

Academic Honesty Policy

All students are expected to follow the principles of academic honesty as set out in the policies of Moravian College. See the Student Handbook for details. Any and all written work must be done in your own words (with the exception of direct quotations which are clearly indicated as such), and written work must include proper citations indicating the sources for any ideas, concepts, facts, or other information derived from others, whether or not you have restated it in your own words. Any cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Affairs Office. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course.

Schedule and Assignments (Schedule may be changed at the discretion of the instructor; advance notice will be given)

*You will be expected to spend 2 1/2-3 hours on work outside of class for every hour in class.

**Be sure to bring books for assigned readings to class the day they will be covered in class because we will use them in our in-class activities and assignments.

***Not all of the book, *Growing Up in the People’s Republic*, will be covered in class readings. Readings from the book marked with ** are a recommended reading schedule for the chapters, to finish the book in time to write the Critical Reasoning Paper.

Readings from the book, but not marked below will be discussed in class.

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
1: Mon. 1/15	Introduction	None Miller, “Mythical Bad Girls”(handout)
1: Wed. 1/17	Prelude to the 20 th Century: Women in East Asian History	Fujimura, pp. 3-11; Tao, pp. 3-14; Miller “Mythical Bad Girls”(handout) Email question due by 4:30 pm
2: Mon. 1/22	Family and Women in China and Japan	Ye, pp. 1-21; Miller, Ch. 2 (handout)
2: Wed. 1/24	Feminism and Nationalism in East Asia	Tao, pp. 55-68; Fujimura, pp. 323-338
3: Mon. 1/29	Women’s Movements, Politics, and Governments: Japan	Fujimura, pp. 343-352; **Ye, Ch. 2
3: Wed. 1/31	Women’s Movements,	Tao, pp. 71-88; Honig, pp.

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
	Politics, and Governments: China	308-325 Email question due by 4:30 pm
4 Mon. 2/5	Women and Education: Japan (I)	Fujimura, pp. 93-105 and 107-123 Critical Memo Paper I due
4: Wed. 2/7	Women and Education: Japan (II)	Miller, Ch. 3 (handout)
5: Mon. 2/12	Women and Education: China	Tao, pp. 109-135 **Ye, Ch. 3
5: Wed. 2/14	Revolution, War, and Women's Liberation in China and East Asia	Ye, Ch. 4 Email question due by 4:30 pm
6: Mon. 2/19	Women in the Economy: China	Tao, pp. 207-218; Honig, pp. 243-263
6: Wed. 2/21	Women in the Economy: Japan	Fujimura, pp. 271-291 **Ye, Ch. 5
Feb. 23, 2007	Midterm	
7: Mon. 2/26	Marriage, Motherhood, and Femininity: China I	Tao, pp. 159-169; Honig, pp. 137-155
7: Wed. 2/28	Marriage, Motherhood, and Femininity: China II	Honig, pp. 169-191; Tao, pp. 172-178 **Ye, Ch. 6 Email question due by 4:30 pm
March 3-11, 2007	Spring Break	No classes
8: Mon. 3/12	Marriage, Motherhood, and Femininity: Japan	Fujimura, pp. 183-197 and 199-211 Critical Memo Paper II
8: Wed. 3/14	Women, Conflict, War and Violence: China	Honig, pp. 273-298; Tao, pp. 179-191
9: Mon. 3/19	Women, Conflict, War and	Fujimura, pp. 255-26 and

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
	Violence: Japan	265-268
9: Wed. 3/21	Women, Consumerism, and Capitalism: Japan	Miller, Ch. 7 (Handout) Email question due by 4:30 pm
10: Mon. 3/26	Women and Sexuality: Japan	Fujimura, pp. 309-319
10: Wed. 3/28	Women and Sexuality: China	Honig, pp. 41-67
11: Mon. 4/2	Women in the Minority: China	Tao, pp. 248-257 and 193-203
11: Wed. 4/4	Women in the Minority: Japan	Fujimura, pp. 213-227 Email question due by 4:30 pm
April 6-9, 2007	Easter Break	No classes
12: Wed. 4/11	Women and Racism: Japan	Miller, Ch. 9 (Handout) Critical Reasoning Paper due
13: Mon. 4/16	Women and Politics: Japan	Fujimura, pp. 353-371
13: Wed. 4/18	Women and Politics: China	Tao, pp. 221-240 Email question due in class by 4:30 pm
14: Mon. 4/23	Women, Transnationalism, and Trafficking	Miller, Ch. 10 (Handout)
14: Wed. 4/25	Women and the Future	Fujimura, pp. 384-392; Tao, pp. 261-272 Paper rewrite due in class
Finals: April 30-May 4, 2007		