

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

Fall 2011

Office: Comenius 104

Office Ph.: 610-861-1418

Office Hours: M 3-4:30 pm; Tues. 2:30-4 pm; and other times by appointment.

Professor Lisa Fischler

Email: fischler@moravian.edu

Class: M 5,6 (1-3 pm)

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.

Required Texts: Available at the college bookstore-

- § Roces, Mina and Louisa Edwards, eds. *Women's Movements in East Asia*. NY: Routledge, 2010.
- § Chen, Ya-Chen. *The Many Dimensions of Chinese Feminism*. NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Course Grades, Policies, and Responsibilities

1. Participation-will include aspects of the course such as attendance, promptness, in-class participation, preparation, effort, and involvement in and contributions to the class. For assigned readings, you will be expected to read carefully, take notes, list questions, and come prepared to discuss (both verbally and in writing) in the session they are due. You can plan to spend two-three hours outside of class preparing for every hour spent in class. For class, participation includes active involvement in interactive lectures, substantive contributions to discussions, and engagement with in-class activities. Effort counts heavily. Attempting to answer a question, asking a question, or voicing an opinion and supporting it are all part of participation. I will evaluate your participation highly if you: a) attend class regularly and are there for the full class period; b) critically discuss the videos, materials, and readings I make available; c) raise relevant questions and offer thoughtful comments; d) demonstrate you understand the material by your full involvement during in-class activities; e) engage effectively in peer-review sessions in class. Every class session is counted toward your final participation grade. If you do not participate actively in each class, or are not there, your final participation grade will decrease because I cannot grade you when you do not participate.

-You are expected to attend all classes. **Please be aware that absences are not divided into excused and unexcused. Regardless of the reason, an absence from class will be counted as an absence.**

Extended or excessive absences (three or more) are required to be reported to the Dean's Office and each absence after the third will lower your participation grade.

-Arriving late or leaving early can lower your participation grade. After the second instance of late arrival or leaving early, the disruptive classroom policy may be applied.

2. Papers: there will be two papers and two paper rewrites in order to fulfill the requirements of this writing intensive course. These papers will be the following:

a. **Critical Memo Papers**- There will be two critical memo papers in this class. Each paper needs to be 10-12 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. 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 feminist and gender politics. Detailed instructions for the paper format and content will be handed out and discussed in class during week two 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. Check the syllabus for exact due dates. Using the Writing Center for these papers is strongly recommended.

c. **Paper rewrites**-will be rewrites for each of the two papers assigned for this class. Check the syllabus for the exact due dates. 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. 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.

-All papers are due at the time, date, and place noted on the syllabus. Late papers will be accepted with a five (5) point deduction for each full day late beginning just after the due time and date (e.g. from 4:00 pm on the due date to 4:00 pm the next day is a 5 point deduction), up to 7 full days late at which time late papers will no longer be accepted and students will receive a 0 grade on the assignment. No exceptions will be made for technical difficulties. I will only accept written work turned in by email if you have arranged with me beforehand to do so for that specific assignment. In the case of an assignment turned in via email, be aware that I must be able to open the attachment and email without a problem in order for the assignment to be accepted for credit.

3. **Bi-weekly email questions**-Every other week, beginning in the first week and ending in week fourteen, 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 4:00 p.m. on each Friday of weeks beginning with odd numbers (*except for week 13 in which Friday falls over Thanksgiving so the question is due on Friday of week 14*), 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 Friday 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.

4. Accommodations, Expectations, and Responsibilities

-Requests for accommodation on these policies will only be made in extenuating, documentable, and compelling circumstances; will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; require immediate notification be given to the instructor; and can be referred to Learning Services.

-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

-Cell phones need to be turned to OFF and put away in a purse or bookbag during class. Use of cell phones in any way during class may result in dismissal from class and can lower your participation grade.

- Drinks are allowed in class, other food is not.

-Disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken.

-Learning Disability accommodations: students who wish to request accommodation in this class for support of learning disabilities should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer at Learning Services (610-861-1510), 1307 Main St. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

-The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

-Academic Honesty-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.

-Email etiquette-students can expect email to be answered within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends, provided that email is correctly addressed (to Dr. Fischler or Professor Fischler), signed by the student, and civil in content.

-For the well-being of both students and the instructor, I will insist on a 24 hour waiting period after each assignment is passed back before I will discuss it with you. After that, I am happy to engage in a reasonable, rational discussion about your assignment or exam with you.

-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.

B. Grade Components

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

Bi-weekly email questions	70 points
Class Participation	100 points
Critical Memo paper I	200 points
Critical Memo Paper II	200 points
Rewrite of Paper I	150 points
Rewrite of Paper II	<u>150 points</u>
	870 points

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.

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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.

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
1: Mon. 8/29	Introduction	None
1: Fri. 9/2		Email question due by 4:00 pm
2: Mon. 9/5	Labor Day	No classes
Sept. 6, 2011	Last day to add/drop	
3: Mon. 9/12	Women’s Movements In Asia and America	Roces and Edwards, Ch. 1
3: Fri. 9/16		Email question due by 4:00 pm
4 Mon. 9/19	The Question of “Feminism”	Chen, Ch. 1
4: Wed. 9/21		Critical Memo Paper I due by 4 pm

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings and Assignment(s) Due
5: Mon. 9/26	Women in China	Roces and Edwards, Ch. 4
5: Fri. 9/30		Email question due by 4:00 pm
6: Mon. 10/3	Women in Hong Kong	Roces and Edwards, Ch. 9
7: Mon. 10/10 (10/8-10/11)	Fall Break	No classes
7: Wed. 10/12		Critical Memo Paper I rewrite due by 4 pm
7: Fri. 10/14		Email question due by 4:00 pm
8: Mon. 10/17	Three Waves of "Feminism" in Greater China	Chen, Ch. 2
9: Mon. 10/24	Women in Japan	Roces and Edwards, Ch. 6
9: Fri. 10/28		Email question due by 4:00 pm
10: Mon. 10/31	Women in Korea	Roces and Edwards, Ch. 11
10: Wed. 11/1		Critical Memo II Paper due by 4:00 pm
11: Mon. 11/7	Feminists in Taiwan	Chen, Ch. 3
11: Fri. 11/11		Email question due by 4:00 pm
12: Mon. 11/14	Feminists in the PRC	Chen, Ch. 4
13: Mon. 11/21	Feminist Theory in Taiwan	Chen, Ch.5
Nov. 23-27, 2011	Thanksgiving Break	No classes
14: Mon. 11/28	Feminist Theory in the PRC	Chen, Ch. 6
14: Wed. 11/30		Critical Memo Paper II rewrite due by 4:00 pm
14: Fri. 12/2		Email question due by 4:00 pm
15: Mon. 12/5	Women in Singapore	Roces and Edwards, Ch. 5
Dec. 9. 12-16	Finals	