WOMEN IN CHINESE LITERATURE:
FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT

Dr. Yun Zhu (Anderson Hall 351, in 345) yun.zhu@temple.edu

Class Meetings: M W F 10:00am-10:50am, ANDRSN 206
Office Hours: M & W 8:50am-9:50am, or by appointment

Course Description
This course examines the representation of women in Chinese literature (in English translation) from ancient times to the contemporary. Throughout the semester, we will pursue the issues of gender and representation. How are women portrayed in literary texts of various genres and different cultural-historical backgrounds? What kind of gender-based expectations do these women’s images respectively embody? How do women writers write about themselves and other women? How does each image fit, or not fit, into the general social imaginary and the literary-representational system against which it has emerged? The format of the course will be lecture-discussion. Each student will be required to give a presentation and write three one-page reading responses. Both the midterm and the final exams will be composed of identification questions, short-answer questions, and an essay section drawn from the lectures and readings. A 5-7 page paper will be due the last day of class. The course will be conducted in English, and no knowledge of Chinese language will be required. Selected films will be used to supplement the lectures and readings.

Course Outcomes
In this course, students will:
- Obtain a familiarity with the works covered in this course and their respective cultural historical backgrounds;
- Deepen their understanding of women’s images in Chinese literary texts of different historical periods;
- Improve their skills to critically read and analytically write about literary texts, with a strong awareness of gender issues.

Evaluation and Course Requirements
Attendance & Participation 20%
Presentation (10 minutes) 5%
Blackboard Reflections (300 Words x 3) 15%
Pop Quizzes 10%
Midterm Exam 15%
Final Exam 15%
Term Paper (5-7 Pages, Times New Roman 12, Double-Spaced) 20%
Grades will be assigned as follows:

- 92.5% and above: A
- 90-92.49%: A-
- 87.5-89.99%: B+
- 82.5-87.49%: B
- 80-82.49%: B-
- 77.5-79.99%: C+
- 72.5-77.49%: C
- 67.5-69.99%: D+
- 62.5-67.49%: D
- 60-62.49%: D-
- Below 60%: F

Prerequisites
English 1002.

Disability Statement
This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should both contact Disability Resources and Services (http://www.temple.edu/studentaffairs/disability/index.html) and meet the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty
Students are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity and should avoid any form of dishonesty, including plagiarism (from books, internet sources, or other people’s works). Please refer to “Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities” at http://policies.temple.edu/PDF/99.pdf for information, and the university statement on plagiarism and cheating can be accessed at http://ww2.cis.temple.edu/cis166/plagiarism.htm. Please note that according to the statement “The penalty for plagiarism or cheating as a first offense is normally an "F" in the course in which the offense is committed and a report to the Dean. A subsequent offense may, in addition, be referred to the university disciplinary committee.”

Policy on Attendance and Participation
Much emphasis will be placed upon class participation, which includes timely attendance and active as well as constructive participation in class.

Excused Absences: The only excused absences are either those for which a student arranged for an absence three days or more in advance in order to observe a religious holiday or those for documented university-authorized absences.

Unexcused Absences: You will be allowed four unexcused absences. If you are sick or have a family emergency or have to attend to some other matter that keeps you from class, that absence will count as one of the four. If you have more than four unexcused absences, your grade will be automatically lowered half a grade. For example, a B+ under this policy would be lowered to a B.

Tardiness: Class begins on the hour. If you are not present and seated at the start of class, you will be counted as absent. Please also be informed that most pop-up quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, and no makeup quizzes will be given except for prearranged absences to observe a religious holiday.
**Make-Up Exams:** Normally no makeup tests/exams will be allowed, unless with proper documentation and timely notice.

**Access to Required Readings**
All required readings are on reserve in the library, and you can access them via the library website under “Reserves.”

**Preparation for Class**
Students are expected to come to class prepared. For this purpose, it is likely that most students will have to spend 4.5-6 hours a week outside of class studying the required materials and working on the assignments. **Please bring the required readings with you (hard copy) to class.** The recommended materials are only for those looking for extra information. They are not required and will not be tested on.

**Presentation**
Each student will give a 10 minute presentation based on the materials they have signed up for. The presentations are expected to provide contextual information, provoke critical thoughts, raise questions, and trigger class discussions. You are welcome to talk to the instructor (for suggested readings, etc.) when you prepare for your presentation.

**Blackboard Reflections**
Students will be assigned three 300-word reflections on the course materials to submit through Blackboard. The deadlines have been highlighted in the schedule. You are highly encouraged to write and post your reflections ahead of the deadlines to help with class discussions. Also, you are welcome to write “reflections upon reflections,” i.e., responses to others’ reflections, but these will not be counted or credited. We will discuss all the postings in class.

**Term Paper**
A 5-7 page term paper will be due in class on **Mon, May 6 2013.** In the process of developing your argument and writing your paper, you are required to meet the instructor at least twice (see the suggested timeline in the schedule) to discuss your paper project, and these two required meetings count for 5% out of the 20% assigned to the term paper project. A **written paper proposal and an outline** will be due respectively at these meetings. You are welcome to discuss early drafts with the instructor before final submission.

**Policy on Late Assignments**
Late assignments (including papers) will be read and commented on, but every day of lateness will be penalized with a deduction of 10% from the points gained for the assignment.
Religious Holidays
If religious holidays prevent you from attending class or fulfilling course requirements on time, your absence will be excused and you may make up the missed work. However, you must inform the instructor within two weeks of the beginning of the semester – or three days before any holiday that fall within the first two weeks of class.

No Use of Electronic Devices Allowed in Class
Introduction

Wed. 1/23 Introduction: women and writing in the Chinese context
Mon. 1/28 Images of women in Chinese literature: continued discussion
Fri. 2/1 Writing women of imperial China: continued discussion

Women in the Classic of Poetry, The Analects, and the Confucian Tradition

[While the entire chapter is on reserve, only the assigned poems are required.]
Mon. 2/11 Women and Confucian rites: continued discussion

When “She” Becomes a Figure of Speech: The Female and the Feminine in Chu-ci and the Chu-ci Tradition

[While the entire chapter is on reserve, only the assigned part is required.]
### Two Contrasting Archetypes: The *Femme Fatale* and the *Woman Warrior*

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Reading/Viewing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 2/18</td>
<td>Required reading: Bo Ju-yi’s “Song of Lasting Pain,” <em>An Anthology of Chinese Literature</em>, 441-447</td>
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<td>Fri. 2/22</td>
<td>Mu-lan: continued discussion</td>
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**First Blackboard reflection due 12 noon**

### Women in Tang Tales, Yuan Variety Plays, and Ming and Qing Vernacular Stories

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<tr>
<td>Mon. 2/25</td>
<td>Required reading: “Ying-ying’s Story,” <em>An Anthology of Chinese Literature</em>, 540-549</td>
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<td>* Recommended viewing: <em>Romance of the Western Chamber</em> (1927, dir. Hou Yao)</td>
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<td>Fri. 3/1</td>
<td>Ying-ying and Du Shiniang: continued discussion</td>
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<td>* Recommended reading: Pu Song-ling, “Xiao-cui” and “Blue Maid,” <em>An Anthology of Chinese Literature</em>, 1113-1127</td>
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<td>Wed. 3/6</td>
<td>In-class viewing and discussion: clips from <em>A Touch of Zen</em> (1971, dir. King Hu) [You are highly encouraged to watch the film in entirety after class. It’s on reserve.]</td>
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<td>Fri. 3/8</td>
<td><strong>Midterm exam</strong></td>
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**Sun. 3/10 – Sun. 3/17 Happy Spring Recess!**

[Also, please start to prepare for the following week’s reading assignments.]

### Talented Women Writers in Imperial China

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<tr>
<td>Mon. 3/18</td>
<td>Required reading: “The Book of Filial Piety for Women Attributed to a Woman Née Zheng,” <em>Under Confucian Eyes: Writings on Gender in Chinese History</em>, 47-70</td>
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Wed. 3/20  
*Book of Filial Piety for Women*: continued discussion

Fri. 3/22  
Required reading: Li Qingzhao’s lyric poems, *The Red Brush*, 204-243

Mon. 3/25  
Li Qingzhao: continued discussion  
**Second Blackboard reflection due 12 noon**

Wed. 3/27  
Required reading: Plucking rhymes by Chen Duansheng, *The Red Brush*, 734-753  

Fri. 3/29  
Chen Duansheng: continued discussion  

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**Modern Girls and New Women**

Mon. 4/1  
Required reading: Excerpt from Mu Shiying’s “The Shanghai Foxtrot,”  
*Modernism/Modernity* 11.4 (Nov. 2004): 797-807

Wed. 4/3  
In-class viewing and discussion: clips from *The Goddess* (1934, dir. Wu Yonggang)  
[You are highly encouraged to watch the film in entirety after class. It’s on reserve.]

Fri. 4/5  

Mon. 4/8  
The “New Woman”: continued discussion  
* Recommended reading: Lu Xun on the Chinese Nora, a translation available at  
http://userwww.sfsu.edu/wenchao/translation/nora.pdf

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**Women and Revolution: The Case of Ding Ling**

Wed. 4/10  
Required reading: “Shanghai, Spring, 1931” (Part One), *I Myself am a Woman: Selected Writings of Ding Ling*, 113-139

Fri. 4/12  
“Shanghai, Spring, 1931” (Part One): continued discussion  
**Third Blackboard reflection due 12 noon**
   In this week (4/8-4/12), you should meet with Dr. Zhu to talk about your term paper proposal (hard copy required at the meeting).

Wed. 4/17  Required reading: “Thoughts on March 8” *I Myself am a Woman*, 316-321

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**Women Writers Since the Reform Era**


Mon. 4/22  “Love Must Not Be Forgotten”; continued discussion
   In this week (4/22-4/26), you should meet with Dr. Zhu to talk about your term paper outline (hard copy required at the meeting).


Fri. 4/26  “Brothers”: continued discussion
   *Recommended viewing: Woman Demon Human* (dir. Huang Shuqin, 1987)

Mon. 4/29  Required reading: Excerpts from Wei Hui’s *Shanghai Baby*, 1-26

Wed. 5/1   Required reading: Chun Sue, “Born at the Wrong Time,” *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*, 480-496

Fri. 5/3    *Shanghai Baby* and *Beijing Doll*: continued discussion

Mon. 5/6   Wrap-up; Term Paper Due in Class

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**Final Exam: Friday 5/10, 8:00am-10:00am**