EAS 280 Gender, Sexuality, and Asia

Professor: Hai REN, Ph. D.
Class Time: 9:30-10:45 a.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays
Classroom: Modern Languages Buildings Room 304
Office: Learning Services Building, Room 128
Office hours: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays; 2:00-3:00 p.m. on Thursdays; and by appointment
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Description
The course examines multiple meanings of gender and sexuality among peoples in East Asia, including heterosexuals, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, and queers, by focusing on historical, cultural, political, and social constructions of gender and sexual knowledge and identities. Topics include changing conceptions of family and kinship; notions of desire, affect, and happiness; ideas of sexed bodies, femininity, and masculinity; questions of gender and sexual norms; the relationships between sexuality, gender, and political economy; queer cultural and political activisms and projects through arts, literatures, and media.

The course consists of required readings, lectures by the instructor, visual and multimedia materials, and discussions. My lectures focus on introducing major theoretical issues and intellectual debates. The discussion emphasis will be on exploring the readings. This requires that you keep up with the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. Learning is best achieved by active involvement and questioning, rather than passively sitting by as others do the work.

Course Policies and Etiquette
I welcome you to this course and hope to make it an informative, productive, and engaging experience for all. There are a few classroom policies to abide by.

Mutual Respect
In order to encourage consistent classroom participation from as many people as possible, this class asks that everyone treat everyone else in a courteous, civil, and respectful manner (regardless of actual feelings). That doesn’t mean we have to agree with each other all the time; on the contrary, intelligent, thoughtful disagreement is a vital part of learning—so long as one knows the difference between disagreement and attack (especially personal attack.). The goal is to make our classroom a community of learners, where we, as individuals and as a group, can test, debate, exchange, modify, discard, and reexamine ideas and experiences, improving our ability to think critically and to communicate our ideas clearly.
Please do not leave class early or arrive late. If you have a scheduling conflict, please find another course that better suits your schedule. This course is offered nearly every year. Walking into class late or leaving early will count as an absence.

Please turn all cell phones off. Don’t set them to vibrate, don’t leave them on for text messaging, just turn them off. E-mailing or web surfing via your laptop is also not appropriate. If they interfere with your participation in class, such distractions may affect your grade.

Code of Academic Integrity
All the work submitted in this course must be the product of your individual labor. The unacknowledged borrowing of someone else’s ideas or the expression of those ideas (i.e. their words) constitutes plagiarism, a very serious academic offense. If you have any questions about plagiarism or its unpleasant consequences, please read the section on plagiarism in the Academic Code of Conduct in your Student Handbook (For more information, please read <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>.

When you do research for assignments, be careful to credit ideas and language to their source, including websites. For instructions on how to properly credit ideas or language, please consult a university librarian. If you have further questions, be sure to ask me.

Disability Issues
Students with disabilities who require accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements must register with the Disability Resource Center. They will contact the instructor and I will be more than happy to work with you. For more information, please read <http://drc.arizona.edu/>.

Course Requirements
Regular attendance and active class participation. Two papers, two exams, two presentations, and a self-evaluative report. Two copies of the papers and the journals must be submitted: a final electronic copy to be uploaded to the course’s D2L site and a hard copy to the professor. The grades of late papers will be reduced by 5 points (out of 100) for every day after the due date.

Papers (35%): You are required to write two papers. The short paper (15%) should be four to six pages long, typed, and double-spaced. You will be given the option to rewrite this paper after receiving my comments. If you decide to do this, you should let me know and submit the revised paper within a week. The final paper (20%) should be six to eight pages long, typed, and double-spaced. You have the option to submit a draft to get my feedback before producing the final version. The topics for each paper will be distributed to you at least three weeks prior to the due date.

Exams (30%): Two exams (15% each) are designed to test what you learn, especially key concepts, debates, and events. They will cover lectures, readings, and media materials.

Presentations (10%): As a way to enhance your participation, you are required to lead two discussion sessions on the assigned readings. Each discussion must be based on your understanding of the assigned readings. You are encouraged to discuss your questions, concerns, and the direction of your thought with me in advance of the presentation. Discussion notes can be revised later for your journal. A sign-up sheet will be circulated in the second week. You may change your presentation dates if you find somebody with whom you can swap dates. In such a case, you must inform me in advance.
Journals (10%): As you do your readings, you are expected to write your own notes/summary and questions in a journal and add them to notes taken in class from the lectures and discussions. After class lectures and discussions, you are expected to be able to answer your reading questions. You may keep revising the journal throughout the semester if you like. The idea behind the journals is that you will come to class confidently informed and have reflected on the reading carefully so we may have a substantial discussion. You must bring your journal to every class. You will be often asked at random to read out your response. You will be submitting the typed hard copy to the instructor once in the semester and again at the end of the semester. Anyone who wants feedback early is invited to send the instructor a copy of your journal entry. Email is fine for this. Alternatively, you may consult the instructor during office hours.

Class Attendance (10%): Regular class attendance is mandatory. There will be a sign-in sheet in each class session. Students are expected to attend class as well as participate in discussions, and group sessions. Each student is allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences during the semester. For each unexcused absence thereafter, five points are deducted from your final grade. You are responsible for keeping the instructor informed of any situation that prevents you from attending class.

You are required to write a one-page self-evaluative report (5%) at the end of the semester. This assignment is designed to give you an opportunity to reflect what you have learned in the semester. In the report, you should address the following questions: How would you like to apply two concepts or/and methods in your future career? What aspects of your work are you pleased about? What areas of your work would you like to improve or further expand? In addition, you should also assign yourself a grade on the basis of evaluating your participation and attendance.

Required Books (Available at the University of Arizona Bookstore)


Additional Required Readings (Available on D2L Course Website)


Liu, Petrus and Lisa Refel. 2010. “An Interview with Shi Tou.” [Shi Tou, a well-known lesbian activist in China, is the lead actress in Li Yu’s film *Fish and Elephant* discussed in Martin’s chapter “Critical Presentism”]


Rocha, Leon Antonio. 2010. “*Xing*: The Discourse of Sex and Human Nature in Modern China.” *Gender & History* Vol. 22 No. 3 November 2010, pp. 603-628.


### Selected Films (to be Discussed and Referred to in Readings and Lectures)

- Chen Kaige, *Farewell, My Concubine* (1993)
- Cui Zi’en, *Night Scene* (2005, 75 minutes)
- Cui Zi’en, *Queer China* (2008, 118 minutes)
Yan Yan Mak, *Hu Die* 蝴蝶 (Butterfly) (2004, 124 minutes)  
Tsai Ming-liang, *Vive L’Amour* (1994)  

**Weekly Schedule of Topics and Readings**  
[Note: The schedule may be revised if necessary.]

**Week 1 (8/26, 8/28) Introduction**  
Topics:  
- Course topics, requirements, and goals  
- Concepts of gender, sexuality, and Asia  
Reading:  
  Rahman and Jackson, *Gender & Sexuality*. Part I (pp. 1-48).

**Week 2 (9/2, 9/4) Inequalities and Social Structure**  
Topics:  
- Connecting gender & sexuality to social issues (for example, social division and norms, inequalities, class, race, power relations)  
Reading:  
  Rahman and Jackson, *Gender & Sexuality*. Part II (pp. 49-99).

**Week 3 (9/9, 9/11) Gender, Sexuality, and Modernity**  
Topics:  
- Gendered and sexualized modernity  
Reading:  
  Rocha, “Xing: The Discourse of Sex and Human Nature in Modern China.”  
  Kang “Male Same-Sex Relations in Modern China: Language, Media Representation, and Law, 1900–1949.”

**Week 4 (9/16, 9/18) Cultural Beliefs and Values**  
Topics:  
- Role of knowledge  
- Sexuality and science  
Reading:  
  Rahman and Jackson, *Gender & Sexuality*. Part III (pp. 101-152).  
  Chiang, “Liberating Sex, Knowing Desire: *scientia sexualis* and Epistemic Turning Points in the History of Sexuality.”  
  Chiang, “Epistemic Modernity and the Emergence of Homosexuality in China” (optional).

**Week 5 (9/23, 9/25) Self, Identity & Agency**  
Topics:  
- Gendered and sexual selves, identities, and actions  
Reading:  
  Rahman and Jackson, *Gender & Sexuality*. Part IV (pp. 153-200).

**Week 6 (9/30, 10/2) Ethnographic Fieldwork**  
10/2: Midterm (covering Weeks 1-6)
Topics:
  Ethnographic fieldwork
  Problem of story-telling

Reading:
  Ho, *Gay and Lesbian Subculture in Urban China*. Chapter 2 (“The Problematics of Storytelling”) (pp. 23-56, 162), Chapter 3 (“Fieldwork: Filtering the Field”) (pp. 57-81, 162-164), and “Appendices A-C” (pp. 144-159).

**Week 7 (10/7, 10/9)  Urban Spaces**

**10/9: Journals #1 (covering readings from Week 1 to Week 7) due**
Topic:
  Sexuality and urban spaces
Reading:
  Ho, *Gay and Lesbian Subculture in Urban China*. Chapter 4 (“Speaking of Same-Sex Subjects in Urban China”) (pp. 82-98, 164)
  Wei, “‘Wandering Men’ No Longer Wander Around: The Production and Transformation of Local Homosexual Identities in Contemporary Chengdu, China.”
  Liu and Rofel. “An Interview with Shi Tou.”

**Week 8 (10/14, 10/16)  Gendered and Sexual Health**

**10/16: Paper #1 due**
Topics:
  Sex shops
  AIDS
Reading:
  McMillan, Jo. 2010. “Selling Sexual Health: China’s Emerging Sex Shop Industry.”
  He and Rofel, “I Am AIDS:’ Living with HIV/AIDS in China.”

**Week 9 (10/21, 10/23)  Media**
Topics:
  Media consumption
  The Otaku
Reading:
  Ren. “Sexuality and Mass Media.”
  Saitō, *Beautiful Fighting Girl*. Translator’s Introduction, Preface, Chapter 1,

**Week 10 (10/28, 10/30)  Gender & Agency**
Topics:
  The figure of the beautiful fighting girl in Japan
Reading:
  Saitō, Tamaki *Beautiful Fighting Girl*. Chapter 5.
  Hjorth, “Pop and ma: The Landscape of Japanese Commodity Characters and Subjectivity.”

**Week 11 (11/4, 11/6)  Queer Asian Cinema**
American Studies Association Annual Meetings, Los Angles, November 5-9, 2014.
**11/6: TBA**
Topics:
  Queer documentaries
Reading:
  Cui, “The Communist International of Queer Film.”
Film screening:
  Cui Zì’en, *Queer China* (2008, 118 minutes)
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Cui Zi’en, Night Scene (2005, 75 minutes)

Week 12 (11/11, 11/13) New Lesbian Cinema
11/11: Veteran’s Day - No Classes
Topics:
Affect, feelings, and remembrance
Reading:

Film screening:
Yan Yan Mak, Hu Die 蝴蝶 (Butterfly) (2004, 124 minutes)

Week 13 (11/18, 11/20) Rethinking Gender and Sexuality in Asia
Topics:
Reflecting on historical, cultural, and political issues that have discussed in the course
What contributions does “Queer theory” make to Asia studies?
Reading:
Liu, “Why Does Queer Theory Need China?”

Week 14 (11/25, 11/27) Queer Space in Asia
Topics:
Reading:

Film screening
Stanley Kwan, Lan Yu (2001, 86 minutes)

Week 15 (12/2, 12/4) Research
12/2-12/4: TBA
Topics:
Research on paper topics

Week 16 (12/9) Summary and Conclusion
Paper #2 due on 12/9/2014
Journals #2 (covering readings from Week 8 to Week 16) due on 12/9/2014
Self-evaluation due by 5:00 PM on Friday, 12/12/2014.
Final Exam (covering Weeks 7-16): Wednesday, 12/17/2014, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Additional References (for Further Study):


Leung, Helen Hok-Sze. 2007. “Archiving Queer Feelings in Hong Kong.” Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 559-71.


