

**Huron University College**  
**CHN 3653G Women in Chinese Society: Images in Literature**

January-April 2018  
8:30-10:30AM Wednesday and 8:30-9:30AM Friday  
Classroom W101, Huron University College

**Course Outline**

Instructor: Dr. H. Laura Wu  
Office: Room A7, Huron University College  
Telephone: (519) 438-7224 ext. 332  
E-mail: hwu1@uwo.ca  
Office Hours: 12:30-2:00 PM Wednesday or by appointment  
Course Prerequisites: 1.0 Essay course(s) from Category A or B

**Course description:**

This course examines the roles that women in traditional Chinese society were expected to play as well as the life experiences they lived as reflected in literature. Texts of different genres and historical periods will be read to explore the changing images of the exemplary and transgressing women. Various normative discourses on women and gender relations will also be looked into. Prescriptive writings and fictional texts will be cross-examined to reveal what kinds of social expectations, prescriptive principles and codes of behaviour were imposed on Chinese women and how Chinese women were seen, via male writings, as responding to and negotiating those expectations, principles and codes.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

- ❖ Identify some important Chinese writers and works that reflect on women's life and deal with women's issues;
- ❖ Identify major concepts and ideas on women and gender relations;
- ❖ Distinguish differences in concepts and ideas on women and gender relations developed in prescriptive discourses and in literary writings;
- ❖ Develop essential skills in analyzing literary works in different genres and forms.

**Texts:**

Assigned readings. Course pack is available at the Bookstore, UCC.

**Method:**

Classes usually are composed of a lecture, a discussion and/or student presentation(s). Discussion will be based on the assigned reading(s), lecture, and student presentation(s). Students are required to participate actively in the discussion.

**Evaluation:**

Participation:	20%
Presentation:	15% (penalty for late submission)
Project:	25% (penalty for late submission)
Term paper:	40% (penalty for late submission)

**Syllabus:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1a	10/01	Introduction: Main Issues and Tenets in Chinese Discourses on Women
1b	12/01	Female Paragons and Womanly Virtues
Reading:		Liu I-ch'ing. "Worthy Beauties" in <i>Shih-shuo hsin-yu: A New Account of Tales of the World</i> , translated by Richard B. Mather. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1976. 340-356.
2a	17/01	Discussion: "Worthy Beauties"
2b	19/01	Simple-Minded Devotion: From Courtesan to Duchess
Reading:		Po Hsing-chien. "The Courtesan Li Wa" in <i>Traditional Chinese Stories: Themes and Variations</i> , edited by Y. W. Ma and Joseph S. M. Lau. New York: Columbia University Press, 1978, 163-171.
3a	24/01	Discussion: "The Courtesan Li Wa"
3b	26/01	One Husband for Life: The Ideal Wife
Reading:		Feng Meng-lung. "The Couple Bound in Life and Death" in <i>Traditional Chinese Stories</i> , 209-224.
4a	31/01	Discussion: "The Couple Bound in Life and Death"
4b	2/02	Safeguarding Chastity I: Female Suicide
Reading:		Feng Menglong. "Emperor Taizu Escorts Jingniang on a One-Thousand-Li Journey" in <i>Stories To Caution the World: A Ming Dynasty Collection</i> , vol. 2, translated by Shuhui Yang and Yunqin Yang. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2005. 319-340.
5a	7/02	Discussion: "Emperor Taizu Escorts Jingniang on a One-Thousand-Li Journey"
5b	9/02	Safeguarding Chastity II: Cunning Schemes
Reading:		Li Yu. "The Female Chen Ping Saves Her Life With Seven Ruses" in <i>Silent Operas</i> , edited by Patrick Hanan. Renditions Paperbacks. Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1990. 77-96.
6a	14/02	Discussion: "The Female Chen Ping Saves Her Life With Seven Ruses"
6b	16/02	Crossing Boundaries I: Cross-dressing and Morality

- Reading: Anonymous. "The Ballad of Mulan" in *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*, edited by Victor Mair. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. 474-476.
- Feng Menglong. "Li Xiuqing Marries the Virgin Huang with Honor" in *Stories Old and New: A Ming Dynasty Collection*, edited by Shuhui Yang and Yunqin Yang. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2000. 489-501.

**Friday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Project due**

**February 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Spring Reading Week**

- 7a 28/02 Discussion: "Li Xiuqing Marries the Virgin Huang with Honor" and "The Ballad of Mulan"
- 7b 02/03 Crossing Boundaries II: Physical and Moral Boundaries  
Reading: Pu Sung-ling. "The Lady Knight-Errant" in *Traditional Chinese Stories*, in *Traditional Chinese Stories*, 77-81.
- 8a 7/03 Discussion: "The Lady Knight-Errant"
- 8b 9/03 **March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 China Day Event: the Second Undergraduate Student Conference**
- 9a 14/03 Transgressing/Trespassing Moral Boundaries I: Sex and Seduction  
Reading: Yuan Chen. "The Story of Ying-ying" in *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*, 851-860.
- 9b 16/03 Discussion: "The Story of Ying-ying"
- 10a 21/03 Transgressing/Trespassing Moral Boundaries II: Sexuality and Widowhood  
Reading: Feng Menglong. "Prefect Kuang Solves the Case of the Dead Baby" in *Stories To Caution the World*, 607-621.
- 10b 23/03 Discussion: "The Dead Baby"
- 11a 28/03 Transgressing/Trespassing Moral Boundaries III: Adultery and Divorce  
Reading: Feng Menglong. "Jiang Xingge Reencounters His Pearl Shirt" in *Stories Old and New: A Ming Dynasty Collection*, 9-47.
- 11b 30/03 **March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Good Friday (no class)**
- 12a 04/04 Discussion: "The Pearl Shirt"  
**Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Term Paper due**

12b 6/04 Conclusion: Chinese Women in Society and in Literature

13a 11/04 **Class on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 is cancelled because of the China Day Event on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Student attendance at the event is required)**

### **Items to Note:**

#### **Penalty for late submission of written assignments**

There is a **penalty for late submission** of written assignments. Penalty is **one** mark for each **calendar** day (Saturday and Sunday included) to a total of **seven** days. Assignments more than seven days late will **not** be accepted. No Extension will be given, except in the case of documented medical or compassionate circumstances.



### **Appendix to Course Outlines**

#### **Prerequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Provost and Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

#### **Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* at:  
<http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentLifeandSupportServices/StudentDiscipline>

## **Technology**

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

## **Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds**

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

[http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting\\_acc](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc)

### **(a) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising**

University Senate policy, which can be found at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf),

requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform\\_15JUN.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf).

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

### **(b) Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly**

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may not collect

medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

**(c) Non-medical Grounds: Consult Instructor Directly**

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

**Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Statement on Academic Integrity**

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

Cheating on tests;

Fraudulent submissions online;

Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);

Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;

Helping someone else cheat;

Unauthorized collaboration;  
Fabrication of results or sources;  
Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

### **Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact**

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

**Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Provost and Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Provost and Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

### **Policy on Special Needs**

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

[http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting\\_acc](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc)

### **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Provost and Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty of registration.

### **Class Cancellations**

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website, <http://www.huronuc.ca/AccessibilityInfo> (“Class Cancellations”).

### **Mental Health @ Western**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Academic Advising**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation [see above], students should contact an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services ([huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca)). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/AcademicAdvisorsandServices>

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/Academics/FacultyofArtsandSocialScience>

**CHN 3653G Women in Chinese Society: Images in Literature**  
**Schedule for Classes and Assignments, Term 2 January-April, 2018**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Classes &amp; Assignments</b>
Week 1a Jan. 10	Introduction: Main Issues and Tenets in Chinese Discourses on Women
Week 1b-2a Jan. 12&17	Female Paragons and Womanly Virtues: Liu I-ch'ing's "Worthy Beauties"
Week 2b-3a Jan. 19&24	Simple-Minded Devotion: From Courtesan to Duchess: Po Hsing-chien's "The Courtesan Li Wa"
Week 3b-4a Jan. 26&31	One Husband for Life: The Ideal Wife Feng Meng-lung's "The Couple Bound in Life and Death"
Week 4b-5a Feb. 2&7	Safeguarding Chastity I: Female Suicide Feng Menglong, "Emperor Taizu Escorts Jingniang on a One-Thousand-Li Journey"
Week 5b-6a Feb. 9&14	Safeguarding Chastity II: Cunning Schemes Li Yu's "The Female Chen Ping Saves Her Life With Seven Ruses"
<b>Week 6b Feb. 16</b>	<b>Friday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Project due</b>
Week 6b-7a Feb. 16&28	Crossing Boundaries I: Cross-dressing and Morality Anonymous, "The Ballad of Mulan" Feng Menglong's "Li Xiuqing Marries the Virgin Huang with Honor"
Week 7b-8a Mar. 2&7	Crossing Boundaries II: Physical and Moral Boundaries Pu Sung-ling, "The Lady Knight-Errant"
Week 8a Mar. 9	<b>Friday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 China Day Event (Attendance required)</b>
Week 9a-b Mar. 14&16	Transgressing/Trespassing Moral Boundaries I: Sex and Seduction Yuan Chen, "The Story of Ying-ying"
Week 10a-b Mar. 21&23	Transgressing/Trespassing Moral Boundaries II: Sexuality and Widowhood Feng Menglong, "Prefect Kuang Solves the Case of the Dead Baby"
Week 11a&12a Mar. 28&Apr. 4	Transgressing/Trespassing Moral Boundaries III: Adultery and Divorce Feng Menglong, "Jiang Xingge Reencounters His Pearl Shirt"
<b>Week 12a Apr. 4</b>	<b>Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Term Paper due</b>
Week 12b Apr. 6	Conclusion: Chinese Women in Society and in Literature