Course description
There is a common perception that Chinese culture traditionally was and still is a wholly patriarchal society where "men are venerated and women are denigrated." It turns out that such a simple, single paradigm is utterly inadequate to capture the complexity of gender dynamics in either traditional or modern China. Even the Confucian literati, who formed the philosophical basis of a male-dominated society, often adopted a female voice when addressing the ruler. In traditional times, women sometimes broke free of the domestic, inner sphere and became warriors, nuns, or poets—several even ascended to the pinnacle of political power and became rulers. Understanding masculinity, like femininity, brings to light a complex, layered and ever-changing narrative. We will explore all of these themes: normative gender roles, challenges to and defiance of these normative roles, the homosexual tradition, and changes in gender roles and expectations.

Objectives
1. Move beyond cultural generalizations and stereotypes: making distinctions over time in terms of ethnicity, gender and society.
2. Gain a greater appreciation of the depth and diversity of the East Asian cultures and the peoples.
3. Develop skills in critical and analytical thinking.
4. Gain a new perspective on history. History is about context. The facts, dates and names, stripped of context, are meaningless and dull.
5. Improve skills in writing papers.

Assignments and Grade Breakdown:
1. Two in-class essays (on 1/28 and 3/4) (20%)
2. Three papers (three-pager due 1/28 (10%), five-page paper due 2/25 [20%]; 10 page paper due 4/22 [30%])
3. Attendance/ Participation (20%)

Academic Integrity
Plagiarism and cheating may be grounds for failing the course.

Classroom Decorum:
*No visible or audible cell phones. I do not like cell phones.
*Arrive on time and stay for the duration. Late arrivals and early departures distract classmates and teachers alike.
*If you must eat and drink—I realize this is inevitable given the time of the class—please do so quietly and unobtrusively.
Topics and Readings (subject to change)
January 7, Introduction

January 14, Gender and Sexuality: A Theoretical Framework

January 21, Paradigms of Patriarchy: "The Male is Venerated and the Female is Denigrated"
Fü Xian poem, "Women." (Bb.)
Xia Xiaohong, "New Meanings in a Classic: Differing Interpretations of Ban Zhao and Her Admonitions for Women in the Late Qing Dynasty," Tao Jie, Zheng Bijun and Shirley Mow eds., *Holding Up Half the Sky* (New York: Feminist Press, 2004), 3-16

January 28 Breaking the Patriarchal Mold: Woman Warrior, Buddhist Nun, Courtesan and Poet
Howard Levy, *Ladies of the Tang*: "Courtesan Li" and "Oriole" (Bb)
Jowen Tong, *Fables for the Patriarchs*, chapter 12 (Bb)

February 4 Women and Power
Sima Qian, *Records of the Grand Historian*, "Empress Lu" (Bb)
Yang Lien-sheng, "Female Rulers in Imperial China," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 23 (1957) 47-61 (Bb)
February 11, Wu Zhao, China's Only Woman Emperor
Rothschild, Wu Zhao, China's Only Woman Emperor
Chen Jo-shu, "Empress Wu and Proto-Feminist Sentiments in T’ang China" (Bb)
Jowen Tong, Fables for the Patriarchs, 57-72.
By Xu Changling, Ruyizhuan, The Lord of Perfect Satisfaction

February 18 Homosexuality in Traditional Chinese Society
Bret Hinsch, Passions of the Cut Sleeve (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990)
Sima Xiangru, "Li Sao"
Jowen Tong, Fables of the Patriarchs, "In Feminine Voice," 151-168.
Matthew Sommer, "Dangerous Males, Vulnerable Males and Polluted Males: The Regulation of Masculinity in Qing Dynasty China," in Brownell and Wasserstrom eds., Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities: A Reader (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), 67-88

February 25, Female Sexuality in Traditional China
Hinsch, Passions of the Cut Sleeve, 173-179.
Robert van Gulik, Sexual Life in Traditional China, "Tang" (Bb)
Excerpt from Gao Shiyu, The Chalice and the Blade (Beijing, 1995)

March 4, Footbinding: The Aesthetics and Sexualization of Pain
Dorothy Ko, Cinderella's Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding (Bb)
Wang, Ping, Aching for Beauty: Footbinding in China
Patricia Ebrey, The Inner Quarters, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), 21-44 and 61-88 (Bb)

March 18, Women and the Family in Late Imperial China
Cao Xueqin, The Story of the Stone.
Selections from Levy, Ideal and Actual in The Story of the Stone, 27-66 (Bb)

March 25 Women in the Early 20th Century
Gail Hershatter, "Modernizing Sex, Sexing Modernity" in Brownell and Wasserstrom eds., Chinese Femininities, Chinese Masculinities: A Reader (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), 199-225
Ding Ling, Miss Sophie's Diary (Bb)

April 1, The Good Comrade: Women in Communist China

April 8, Gender and Sexuality in Post-Socialist China
Mian Mian, Candy, (Back Bay Books, 2003)
Farquhar, Judith, "Ars Erotica" in Appetites: Sex and Food in Post-Socialist China, 243-284 (Bb)

April 15 TBA

Books to Purchase
Mian Mian, Candy (Back Bay Books, 2003)