

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS  
University of Virginia, Academic Sponsor

**Voyage: Spring 2016**  
**Discipline: East Asian Studies**  
**EAST 3559-502: The East in the World: Women of Asia**  
**Division: Lower**  
**Faculty Name: Dong WANG**  
**Credit Hours: 3; Contact Hours: 38**

**Pre-requisites:**

There are no prerequisites. However, academic exposure to Asian and U.S. gender studies, society, and culture, as well as some knowledge of global history and women in the world will be useful.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course offers a historical introduction to the shared and varied experiences of women in Asia. We will begin with an examination of gender relations as defined by cultural and religious norms, the state, kinships, and other political, social and legal institutions in Asian countries. Then, we will move on to explore what it has been like to be a woman in modern Asia. How have colonialism, modernity, nationalism, revolutions, wars, and globalization impacted the status of Asian women? And, what impact in turn does women's participation have on decisions that shape the contemporary world? Comparative studies of African destinations on the spring 2016 voyage help students connect Asia to the world from the perspective of women in history and at present.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- The course helps expose students to varied experiences of women in Asia throughout history.
- Students will acquire skills to analyze the interconnectedness among women across cultures, modes of gendered empowerment as well as complex political, social, economic, religious and ethnic divisions.
- Students will learn to appraise contemporary development in Asia and the world from the vantage point of women.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

AUTHOR: Barbara N. Ramusack and Sharon L. Sievers  
TITLE: Women in Asia: Restoring Women to History  
PUBLISHER: Indiana University Press  
ISBN #: 978-02-5321-2672  
DATE/EDITION: 1999

AUTHOR: Nicole Constable  
TITLE: Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail Order" Marriages  
PUBLISHER: University of California Press

ISBN #: 978-05-2023-8701

DATE/EDITION: 2003

AUTHOR: Pearl Buck

TITLE: Pavilion of Women

PUBLISHER: Moyer Bell

ISBN #: 978-15-5921-2878

DATE/EDITION: 1995; 1946 1<sup>st</sup> ed.

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE**

Depart Ensenada- January 5:

### **A1- January 7:**

In-class diagnostic writing

Histories of Asian women: feminist themes and ethnic debates—Western approaches (I)

Film excerpts, “Eat Drink, Man and Woman” (Ang Lee, 124 minutes, 1994, Part I)

Readings (**keyed to the book and electronic reserves list below**):

--Cixoux, pp. 875-93.

--Hale, pp. 40-61.

### **A2- January 9:**

Histories of Asian women: feminist themes and ethnic debates—Western approaches (II)

Film excerpts, “Eat Drink, Man and Woman” (Ang Lee, 124 minutes, 1994, Part II)

Readings:

--Hale (2005), pp. 29-52.

--Mann, pp. 835-86.

### **A3- January 11:**

A Hakka woman in Hawaii and the making of American nationhood

Film clips and discussion: “The Hawaiians” (1970, 134 minutes)

Readings:

--Michener, ch. 4.

--Christiansen (1998).

Honolulu: January 12

### **A4- January 14:**

General roles of women in Chinese tradition: Eastern approaches

Film clips: “Raise the Red Lantern” (Gong Li, 125 minutes, 1991, Part I)

Readings:

--Ban Zhao, pp. 82-90.

--Mann and Cheng, pp. 1-15, chs. 1, 3, & 13.

--Start to read Buck.

**A5- January 17:**

Contested womanhood and patriarchal society  
Discussion of Buck  
Film clips: "Raise the Red Lantern" (Part II)  
Readings:  
--Finish Buck.

Study Day: January 19

**A6- January 20:**

**Exam I**

**A7- January 22:**

Women and modernity: comparing Chinese, Japanese, and Korean experiences  
Film clips: "The King of Masks," (1996, 101 minutes) and "Chushingura" (directed by Hiroshi Inagaki, 207 minutes, 1962)  
Readings:  
--Ramusack, Part II: Women in East Asia.  
--Bernstein, ch. 9.  
--Lan and Fong, pp. 1-36.

Yokohama: January 24-25

In-Transit: January 26

Kobe: January 27-28

**A8- January 29:**

Women's rights and education in the nation-state building of Japan and China  
Film clips: "The Soong Sisters" (1997, 148 minutes)  
Reading:  
--Molony, pp. 639-61.  
--Edwards, ch. 6.  
--Wang, ch. 4.

Shanghai: January 31-February 1

In-Transit: February 2-3

Hong Kong: 4-5

**A9- February 6:**

Women in Vietnam: colonialism, war and after  
Film clips: "The Lover" (Marguerite Duras, 115 minutes, 1992)  
Readings:  
--Wilcox, pp. 411-39.  
--Dineen and Le, pp. 23-38.

Ho Chi Minh City: February 8-12

**A10- February 13:**

Gender issues in Southeast Asia

Video clips: "Women in Southeast Asian Societies," Barbara Andaya (University of Hawaii, Minoa), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx1dgA1vNJs> (about 40 minutes)

Readings:

--Gills, pp. 106-20.

--Ramusack and Sievers, Part I, women in Southeast Asia.

Study Day: February 15

**A11-February 16 (Field lab assignment due):**

Burmese women: matriarchy, male dominance, and democracy?

Political Career of Aung San Suu Kyi

Readings:

--Sein, February 1958.

--Midekssa, pp. 171-74.

--Ramusack and Sievers, Part I, women in South Asia.

Yangon: February 18-22

**A12- February 23:**

Indian women and the British Raj

Readings:

--Ramusack, pp. 309-21.

--Anagol, introduction & conclusion.

**A13- February 25:**

Writing on women in India: controversies and debates

Readings:

--Sangari and Vaid, introduction.

--Kopf, pp. 563-65.

--East West Center (Honolulu), 2001.

**India**

Cochin: February 27-March 3

**A14- March 4:**

Mauritius: Women in the global labor market

Readings:

--Pyle, pp. 461-89.

--Omvedt, pp. 4746-52.

--Kothar and Nababsing, introduction.

Study Day: March 6

**A15- March 7:**  
**Exam II**

Port Louis: March 9

**A16- March 10:**

Gender, life, and power in Asia: different sides

Film clips: "The Makioka Sisters," (2011, 140 minutes) "Shall We Dance?" (1996, 119 minutes)  
"Departures" (Academy award winner, 2010, 130 minutes)

Study Day: March 12

**A17- March 13:** (Field assignment II/Research paper due)

Diasporic encounters: women and socialism/capitalism in/from Asia and South Africa

Readings:

--Wilhelm, pp. 350-68.

Cape Town: March 15-20

**A18- March 21:**

Asian women: dating, ethnography, and "mail order" marriages

Discussion

Readings:

--Constable, introduction, chs. 1-4.

**A19- March 23:**

Asian women: political economy, immigration, and transnational families

Discussion

Readings:

--Constable, chs. 5-8.

**A20- March 25:**

Asian and African women: interconnections in Ghana

Readings:

--Hu-Dehart, pp. 425-51.

--Marfaing and Thiel, pp. 646-69.

Takoradi: March 27-28

Tema: March 29-31

**A21- April 1:**

Asian women in diasporic narratives

Film screening: "Piccadilly" (Anna May Wong, 108 minutes, 1929) (I)

**A22- April 3:**

Asian women in diasporic narratives  
Film screening and discussion: “Piccadilly” (II)

**A23- April 5:**

Women’s rights and religions in Asia and Morocco  
Wrap up  
Readings:  
--Barlow and Akbarzadeh, pp. 1481-94.

Casablanca: April 7-11

Study Day: April 12

**A24- A Day Finals, April 13**

April 16: Disembarkation Day

**FIELD WORK**

Experiential course work on Semester at Sea is comprised of the required field lab led by your instructor and additional field assignments that span multiple ports.

**FIELD LAB** (At least 20 percent of the contact hours for each course, to be led by the instructor.)

Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field lab.

The field lab for this course takes place on: **February 5, 2016 for about 8 hours in Hong Kong**

Hong Kong is known as a cosmopolitan international city where the East meets the West. Foreign domestic workers make up around 3% of the Hong Kong population. According to the *South China Morning Post*, as of 2013, there were some 320,000 Asian domestic helpers in Hong Kong, of which 50% were from the Philippines, 47% from Indonesia, and the rest from Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Hong Kong law states that such workers must reside with their employers. The condition of Asian domestic workers is being increasingly scrutinized by human-rights groups and criticized as tantamount to modern slavery. Students will visit advocacy centers and organizations that are charged with the rights and well-being of Asian maids in Hong Kong. Students will engage in questions and answers sessions with staff or volunteers about the situation of Asian domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

**FIELD ASSIGNMENTS (TWO)**

- **Assignment I** (20% of the final grade): Following the field lab, students are expected to write a 5-6-page essay. This essay should address the following questions: What are the grievances of foreign domestics in Hong Kong? What is your solution to the problem?

Identify the complicated factors that have sustained such an industry in a well-developed place like Hong Kong. Your essay will be graded on its thoroughness, originality, and critical assessment of evidence from all sides.

- **Assignment II** (30% of the final grade, 8-page research paper): Based on your experiences in the ports of call except for Shanghai and Hong Kong, i.e., Honolulu, Yokohama, Ho Chi Minh City, Rangoon, Cochin, Cape Town, Takoradi, Tema, and Casablanca, students are expected to answer the following questions in the **first section** of the research paper: Are Asian women or women from other countries visible in the above ports? Why are they there? Conduct interviews on the street.

The **second section** of the research paper should be built upon your findings above and reflect on the gendering of interregional and global labor or tourist markets, or women migration patterns, and religious and cultural ramifications. Your work will be graded on thoroughness, originality, and substantive integration of your first-hand experience with the curriculum. Footnotes and a bibliography beyond course readings must be included.

## **METHODS OF EVALUATION/GRADING RUBRIC**

Please note attendance and participation is required on Semester at Sea. Absences are only excused when accompanied by a note from the clinic.

Participation in class discussion: 20%

Exam I: 10%

Exam II: 10%

Field Lab Assignment (5-6-page essay): 20%

Field Assignment (8-page research paper): 30%

Final: 10%

## **RESERVE BOOKS AND FILMS FOR THE LIBRARY**

### FILMS:

“Chushingura” (directed by Hiroshi Inagaki, 207 minutes, 1962)

“Departures” (Academy award winner, 130 minutes, 2010)

“Eat Drink, Man and Woman” (Ang Lee, 124 minutes, 1994)

“Piccadilly” (Anna May Wong, 108 minutes, 1929)

“Raise the Red Lantern” (Gong Li, 125 minutes, 1991)

“Shall We Dance?” (119 minutes, 1996)

“The Hawaiians” (134 minutes, 1970)

“The King of Masks” (101 minutes, 1996)

“The Lover” (Marguerite Duras, 115 minutes, 1992)

“The Makioka Sisters” (140 minutes, 2011)

“Women in Southeast Asian Societies,” Barbara Andaya (University of Hawaii, Minoa), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx1dgA1vNJ8> (about 40 minutes)

## ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

- Anagol, Padma. *The Emergence of Feminism in India, 1850-1920* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006), introduction & conclusion.
- Barlow, Rebecca, and Shahram Akbarzadeh. "Women's Rights in the Muslim World: Reform or Reconstruction?" *Third World Quarterly* 27, no. 8 (2006): 1481-94.
- Christiansen, Flemming. "Hakka: The Politics of Global Ethnic Identity Building," *SPIRIT* Discussion Paper No. 5/98 (1998).
- Cixoux, H el ene, transl. by Keith Cohen and Paula Cohen, "The Laugh of the Medusa," *Signs* 1, no. 4 (Summer 1976): 875-93.
- Dineen, Katherine, and Quan V. Le. "The Impact of an Integrated Microcredit Program on The Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality in Rural Vietnam," *Journal of Development Areas* 49, no. 1 (winter 2015): 23-38.
- East West Center (Honolulu), "The Changing Status of Women," <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/fileadmin/stored/misc/FuturePop05Women.pdf> (approx. 2001).
- Edwards, Louise. *Gender, Politics, and Democracy: Women's Suffrage in China*, ch. 6.
- Gail Lee Bernstein, ed. *Recreating Japanese Women, 1600-1945* (Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1991), ch. 9.
- Gills, Dong-Sook S. "Globalization of Production and Women in Asia," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 581, Globalization and Democracy (May 2002): 106-20.
- Hale, Sondra. "Activating the Gender Local: Transnational Ideologies and 'Women's Culture' in North Sudan," *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 1, no. 1 (Winter 2005), pp. 29-52.
- Hale, Sondra. "The New Middle East Insurrections and other Subversions of the Modernist Frame," *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 10, 3 (Fall 2014): 40-61.
- Hu-Dehart, Evelyn. "Chinatowns and Borderlands: Inter-Asian Encounters in the Diaspora," *Modern Asian Studies* 46, special issue no. 2 (March 2012): 425-51.
- Kopf, David. "Review of *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*," *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 22, no. 3 (1992): 563-65.
- Kothar, Uma, and Vidula Nababsing. *Gender and Industrialisation: Mauritius, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka* (Mauritius: Editions de l'oc ean Indien, 1996), introduction.
- Lan, Hua R., and Vanessa L. Fong, eds. *Women in Republican China: A Sourcebook* (Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 1999), pp. 1-36.
- Mann, Susan. "Presidential Address: Myths of Asian Womanhood," *Journal of Asian Studies* 59, no. 4 (November 2000): 835-86.
- Marfaing, Laurence, and Alena Thiel, "The Impact of Chinese Business on Market Entry in Ghana and Senegal," *Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute* 83, no. 4 (November 2013): 646-69.
- Michener, James A. *Hawaii* (New York: Random House, 1987), 1959 1st ed., ch. 4.
- Midekssa, Birtukan. "The Spirit of Aung San Suu Kyi," *Journal of Democracy* 23, no. 3 (July 2012): 171-74.
- Molony, Barbara. "Women's Rights, Feminism, and Suffragism in Japan, 1870-1925," *Pacific Historical Review* 69, no. 4 (2000): 639-61.
- Omvedt, Gail. "Women in Governance," *Economic and Political Weekly* 40, no 44/45 (Oct. 29-Nov. 4, 2005), pp. 4746-52.
- Pyle, Jean L., and Kathryn B. Ward, "Recasting our Understanding of Gender and Work during

Global Restructuring,” *International Sociology* 18, no. 3 (2003): 461-89.

--Ramusack, Barbara. “Cultural Missionaries, Maternal Imperialists, Feminist Allies: British Women Activists in India, 1865-1945,” *Women’s Studies International Forum* 13, no. 4 (1990): 309-21.

--Sangari, Kumkum, and Sudesh Vaid. *Recasting Women: Essays in Colonial History* (India: Kali for Women, 1989), introduction.

--Sein, Daw Mya. “The Women of Burma: A Tradition of Hard Work and Independence,” *The Atlantic*, February 1958, <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1958/02/the-women-of-burma/306822/>.

--Wang, Dong. *Managing God’s Learning: U.S.-China Cultural Encounter and Canton Christian College (Lingnan University), 1888-1952* (Landham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007), ch. 4.

--Wilcox, Wynn. “Women and Mythology in Vietnamese History: Le Ngoc Han, Ho Xuan Huong, and the Production of Historical Continuity in Vietnam,” *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 13, no. 2 (fall 2005): 411-39.

--Wilhelm, Janet. “The Chinese communities in South Africa,” in Sakhela Buhlungu, John Daniel, Roger Southall, Jessica Lutchman, eds., *State of the Nation: South Africa, 2005–2006* (HSRC Press, 2006), pp. 350-68, <http://www.hsrcpress.ac.za/product.php?productid=2109cat=36page=1>.

## **HONOR CODE**

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”