

**ANTH 178b**  
**Culture, Gender and Power in East Asia**

Prof. Ellen Schattschneider  
Tuesday/Friday, 9:10-10:30  
Pearlman Pearlman Hall 202

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 (or by appointment)

**Course Description:** This course explores the dynamic relations between culture, gender and power in East Asia, with particular attention to scholarly conversations between ethnographic and historic perspectives. We begin with ideologies of domesticity and motherhood in 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century Japan, by examining phenomena ranging from lunchboxes and beauty pageants to Hip Hop and theatrical cross-dressing. We consider the cultural and gendered politics of language in Japan and discuss transforming gender relations during the period of Japan's militarist expansionism c.1910-1945. We conclude with an extended unit on China, exploring the changing structure of marriage and households, the symbolic politics of reproduction, and transforming experiences of labor, alternate sexualities and national identity in "post-socialist" China.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation.** Work for this course will count towards the final grade in the following fashion:

1 short paper (5-7 pages—March 6)	25%
Two mini-essays (2 pages—Jan. 26; Feb. 16)	15%
1 research paper	
2-3 page abstract March 13	
annotated bibliography March 20	
completed paper, 15-20 pages, May 8	40%
In class presentation	10%
Class participation	10%

All papers (hard copy only) must be typed, double spaced, and in 10 or 12 point. Please use internal citations (Allison 1991:196). Append a bibliography indicating all sources (including internet) used in any way during the writing of the essay. Each essay and

examination must demonstrate mature, thoughtful engagement with all the various readings for the relevant section of the course.

The research paper (15-20 pages) should be on topic to be agreed upon by the professor and student; please meet with me as soon as possible to discuss this. Students are expected to work with library staff to develop a working bibliography.

**Attendance**, on time, is required. For each 3 unexcused absences, the final grade may be reduced by one letter grade.

**Readings** must be done by the assigned date. Except for the two books, all readings are available in electronic form on JSTOR, though Academic Search Premiere or through the class WebCT site. (Please see the reading list at the end of the syllabus for the on-line location of each article). Students are expected to bring hard copies of the readings to class, along with their readings notes.

**The following required books are available for purchase at the University bookstore:**

Miyako Inoue. Vicarious Language: Gender and Linguistic Modernity in Japan.  
University of California Press

Laura Miller. Beauty Up: Exploring Contemporary Japanese Body Aesthetics.  
University of California Press

Tze-Lan Sang. The Emerging Lesbian: Female Same Sex Desire in Modern China.  
Univeristy of Chicago Press

\*Ian Condry. Hip Hop Japan. Duke. (available via Back Pages Books in Waltham)

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism. You may only submit your own original work in this course; this includes quizzes, exams, response essays, written papers, and other media. Please be careful to cite precisely and properly the sources of all authors and persons you have drawn upon in your written work. Plagiarism (from published or internet sources) is a serious violation of academic integrity and of the relationship of trust between student and instructor. Please take special care to indicate the precise source of all materials found on the web, indicating the correct URL address of any material you have quoted or in any way drawn upon. Remember, you must indicate through quotations, indentation and citation when quoting from any outside source (internet or print).

Late work will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor, and if accepted, will be penalized.

Accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

This class is a **cell phone free environment**. Please turn off all mobiles, pagers, etc.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Ideologies of Motherhood and Domesticity in Japan**

#### **Friday, January 19**

Anne Allison. "Japanese Mothers and Obentos: The Lunch-box as Ideological State Apparatus."

Anthropological Quarterly, Vol. 64, No. 4, Gender and the State in Japan (Oct., 1991), (pages 195-208)

Stable URL: [http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-5491%28199110%2964%3A4%3C195%3AJMAOTL%3E2.0.CO%3B2-L)

[5491%28199110%2964%3A4%3C195%3AJMAOTL%3E2.0.CO%3B2-L](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-5491%28199110%2964%3A4%3C195%3AJMAOTL%3E2.0.CO%3B2-L)

Tomiko Yoda, "The Rise and Fall of Maternal Society: Gender, Labor and Capital in Contemporary Japan." (pages 239-274) in Japan After Japan, edited by Tomiko Yoda and Harry Harootunian (WebCT)

#### **Tuesday, January 23**

Keigo Okonogi. "The Ajase Complex and its Implications." (pages 57-75) In Asian Culture and Psychotherapy: Implications for East and West. (WebCT)

Film: *The Good Wife of Tokyo*.

### **Japan: Fantasy, Beauty, Performance**

#### **Friday, January 26**

Jennifer Robertson. "The Politics of Androgyny in Japan: Sexuality and Subversion in the Theater and Beyond." American Ethnologist, Vol. 19, No. 3. (Aug. 1992), pages 419-442.

Film: *Dream Girls* (documentary)

*\*\*Short (2 page essay) due at start of class: Offer an interpretation of "Good Wife of Tokyo" in light of the readings we have encountered thus far. Do the concepts of ajase, "the ideological state apparatus" or "the maternal society" help illuminate any aspects of the documentary?*

#### **Tuesday, January 30**

Laura Miller. Beauty Up: Exploring Contemporary Japanese Body Aesthetics. (begin)

**Friday, February 2**

Laura Miller. (conclude)

**Tuesday, February 6**

Ian Condry. Hip Hop Japan. Duke University Press. (pages 1-133)

**Friday, February 9**

Ian Condry. (pages 134-220)

**Gender and Anime**

**Tuesday, February 13**

Susan Napier, Chapter Seven (“The Enchantment of Estrangement: The Shojo in the World of Miyazaki Hayao”), pages 121-138 in Susan Napier, Anime from Akira to Princess Mononoke (WebCT)

Susan Napier, Chapter Ten (Princess Mononoke: Fantasy, The Feminine and the Myth of “Progress”) pages 175-192 (WebCT)

\*Screen Film: Princess Mononoke (time to be announced)

**Language, Power, and Gender in Japan.**

**Friday, February 16**

Miyako Inoue. Vicarious Language: Gender and Linguistic Modernity in Japan. U of California Press. (selections)

**\*\*Due at start of class: 2 page essay on Japanese concepts of beauty and performance.**

\*Screen film: Mikio Naruse, When a Woman Ascends the Stairs (at time to be scheduled)

**Tuesday, February 20**

No class—University vacation

**Friday, February 23**

No class—University vacation

**Gender and Militarism: Japan**

**Tuesday, February 27**

Ellen Schattschneider. “The Bloodstained Doll.” Journal of Japanese Studies.

Ellen Schattschneider. "The Fires of Fantasy: Recasting the Kamikaze Myth as a Japanese-Korean Family Romance." (ms)

### **Friday, March 2**

Haruko Taya Cook, "Women's Deaths as Weapons of War in Japan's 'Final Battle'" (pages 326-356). In Gendering Modern Japanese History, edited by Barbara Molony and Kathleen Uno. (WebCT)

Kathleen Uno, "Womanhood, War, and Empire: Transmutations of "Good Wife, Wise Mother" before 1931." In Gendering Modern Japanese History, edited by Barbara Molony and Kathleen Uno. (WebCT)

Recommended:

Theodore F. Cook, "Making 'Soldiers': The Imperial Army and the Japanese Man in eiji Society and State" (pages 259-294). In Gendering Modern Japanese History, edited by Barbara Molony and Kathleen Uno (WebCT)

\*Screen Film: (at time to be announced): Akira Kurosawa, Ichiban utsukushiku (The Most Beautiful) 1944

## **Spirit and Society in Korea**

### **Tuesday, March 6**

Laurel Kendall. "Korean Shamans and the Spirits of Capitalism." American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 98, No. 3. (Sep., 1996), pp. 512-527.

VIDEO: The Initiation Kut of a Korean Shaman. (Laurel Kendall)

**\*\*Due at Start of Class: Paper One (5-7 pages).** Discuss the persistence, or the flexibility, of some aspect of gender relations in modern Japan.

### **Friday, March 9**

*Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium student conference Tufts University (no class, but please try to attend some of the conference)*

\*Screen Film (at time to be announced): Wedding through Camera Eyes: A Trilogy of Wedding Photographs in Korea, (Director: Kijung Lee)

## **Marriage, Kinship and Power in China**

### **Tuesday, March 13**

Maria Jaschok, 1989. Concubines and Bondservants. (pages 1-77) (WebCT)

**\*\*Due at Start of class: 2 page abstract of research paper.**

**Friday, March 16**

Rubie S. Watson, "The Named and the Nameless: Gender and Person in Chinese Society" American Ethnologist, Vol. 13, No. 4. (Nov., 1986), pp. 619-631. (on-line)  
Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0094-0496%28198611%2913%3A4%3C619%3ATNATNG%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Q>

Arthur P. Wolf, "Adopt a Daughter-in-Law, Marry a Sister: A Chinese Solution to the Problem of the Incest Taboo." American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 70, No. 5. (Oct., 1968), pages 864-874.

Ellen R. Judd. "Niangjia: Chinese Women and Their Natal Families." The Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. 48, No. 3. (Aug. 1989), p. 525-544. (on-line)

**Tuesday, March 20**

McLaren, Anne E. "Marriage by Abduction in Twentieth Century China." Modern Asian Studies, Oct 2001, Vol. 35 Issue 4, p.953,

McLaren, Anne E. "Mothers, Daughters, and the Socialisation of the Chinese Bride." Asian Studies Review, Mar 2003, Vol. 27 Issue 1

Yan, Yunxiang. "The Triumph of Conjuality: Structural Transformation of Family Relations in a Chinese Village." Ethnology, Summer 1997, Vol. 36 Issue 3

**\*\*Annotated bibliography due (at least 10 print sources)**

**The Biopolitics of Reproduction: China**

**Friday, March 23**

Wu, Yi-Li. "Ghost Fetuses, False Pregnancies, and the Parameters of Medical Uncertainty in Classical Chinese Gynecology." Men, Women & Gender in Early & Imperial China, Oct. 2002, Vol. 4 Issue 2

Jay, Jennifer W. "Another Side of Chinese Eunuch History: Castration, Marriage, Adoption, and Burial." Canadian Journal of History, Dec. 93, Vol. 28 Issue 3, p. 459

**Tuesday, March 27**

*\*Screen Film: "The Women of the Country" (2007)*

Susan Greenlagh. "Controlling Births and Bodies in Village China." American Ethnologist, Vol. 21, No. 1. (Feb., 1994), pages 3-30

## **Alternate Sexualities: China**

### **Friday, March 30**

Sang, Tze-Lan. The Emerging Lesbian: Female Same Sex Desire in Modern China. U of Chicago Press. Part One and Two. (pages 1-162)

See also:

Joyce Y.M. Nip. "The Relationship between Online and Offline Communities: The Case of the Queer Sisters Media", Culture & Society, Vol. 26, No. 3, pages 409-428 (2004)

### **Tuesday, April 3**

No class, University vacation

### **Friday, April 6**

No class, University vacation

### **Tuesday, April 10**

Sang, Tze-Lan. The Emerging Lesbian: Female Same Sex Desire in Modern China. U of Chicago Press. Parts Three and Four. (pages 163-280)

### **Friday, April 13**

Audrey Yue. "What's so queer about Happy Together?" Inter-Asia Cultural Series, Vol. 1, #2, August 1, 2000 pages 251-264.

\*Screen Film in class: Happy Together. (begin)

### **Tuesday, April 17**

Travis Kong Shiu-Ki. "Queer at Your Own Risk: Marginality, Community and Hong Kong Male Bodies.: Sexualities, Vol. 7, #1, pages 5-30 (2004)

(film) Happy Together. (conclude)

### **Friday, April 20**

Student Presentations

### **Tuesday, April 24**

Student Presentations

### **Friday, April 27**

Student Presentations

### **Tuesday, May 1**

Conclusion, last class.

*\*Tuesday, May 8. Research papers due at 12 noon in instructor's office.*