This course sets out to explore a number of issues related to the topic of gender in history by focusing on historical attitudes toward and understandings of the female body. After some consideration of the theoretical issues raised by the historical study of gender, we will examine medical, religious, aesthetic/erotic, and political uses of the female body in both historical and contemporary societies.

The following works are available for purchase at the bookstore, and are also on reserve at Shields. As indicated on the weekly schedule below, we will also be reading articles and selections from other works: these will be available for xeroxing.

- Bynum, Caroline Walker, Fragmentation and Redemption
- Lock, Margaret, Encounters with Aging
- Martin, Emily, The Woman in the Body
- Scott, Joan Wallach, Gender and the Politics of History
- Zito and Barlow, eds., Body, Subject, and Power in China

Course requirements:

Students are expected to prepare a brief (1-2 pages) precis/critique of the week’s main reading before coming to class. These critiques will serve as the basis for our discussion, and thus should include the formulation of a question or interpretive problem that you think the reading poses. In addition, each student will be asked to lead the seminar discussion twice during the quarter.

A 20-page essay is due on the final day of the quarter. Students may prepare a bibliographic essay based on readings from the course, or may undertake a research project on a related topic in their own field. Students will be asked to present their findings in the last meeting of the quarter.

**Week 1:**
April 4 Intro--What is "Cross-Cultural Women's History," and Why?

**Week 2:**
April 11 Some Theory
- Scott, Joan Wallach Gender and the Politics of History
  "Introduction" and "Part One: The Body in Contemporary Western Philosophy and Social Thought" in Kasulis et. al, eds., Self as Body in Asian Theory and Practice pp. ix-xx, 3-36 (44)

**Week 3:**
April 18 Medical Bodies in Modern Societies, Part 1
- Lock, Margaret Encounters with Aging

April **Noon hour meeting with Lock for interested students

**4:00 pm public lecture, "Perfecting Society: The Politics of Reproduction in Japan." Mee Room, MU

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Week 4: April 25 Medical Bodies in Modern Societies, Part 2

Martin, Emily *The Woman in the Body*

Week 5: May 2 Religion/Philosophy/Morality and the Body

Bynum, Caroline Walker, *Fragmentation and Redemption* pp. 79-238. (159)
Miles, Margaret R., "The Virgin's One Bare Breast: Female Nudity and Religious Meaning in Tuscan Early Renaissance Culture" in Susan Rubin Suleiman, ed., *The Female Body in Western Culture* pp. 193-207. (14)
Kasulis, Thomas P. "The Body, Japanese Style" in Kasulis et. al, eds., *Self as Body in Asian Theory and Practice* pp. 299-319 (20)
Sanders, Paula, "Gendering the Ungendered Body: Hermaphrodites in Medieval Islamic Law" in Keddie, Nikki R., ed., *Women in Middle Eastern History* pp. 74-95 (21)

Week 6: May 9 The Aesthetic/Erotic body: Adornment and Mutilation

Ko, Dorothy, *Teachers of the Inner Chambers*, pp. 143-176 (33)
Finch, Casey, "'Hooked and Buttoned Together': Victorian Underwear and Representations of the Female Body" in Victorian Studies 34.3: (Spring 1991):337-363. (26)
Davis, Kathy. *Reshaping the female body: the dilemma of cosmetic surgery* pp. 14-38; 70-92; 115-181

Week 7: May 9 The Body and the State

Carlitz, Katherine, "Desire, Danger and the Body: Stories of Women's Virtue in Late Ming China" in Gilmartin et. al., *Engendering China*, pp. 101-124 (23)
Hershatter, Gail, "Modernizing Sex, Sexing Modernity: Prostitution in Early Twentieth-Century Shanghai" in Gilmartin et. al., eds. *Engendering China* pp. 147-174 (27)
Liu, Lydia, "The Female Body and Nationalist Discourse: Manchuria in Xiao Hong's Field of Life and Death" in Zito and Barlow, eds., *Body, Subject, and Power in China*, pp. 157-177 (20)

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Syllabus/3
Week 7 (continued) Lewis, Jan, "The Republican Wife: Virtue and Seduction in the Early Republic." In The William and Mary Quarterly Third series, 44.4 (October 1987) pp. 689-721 (32)

Poovey, Mary. "The Abortion Question and the Death of Man." In Feminists Theorize the Political, Judith Butler and Joan W. Scott, eds. pp.239-279 (40)

Tohidi, Nayereh, "Gender and Islamic Fundamentalism." In Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism, Mohanty, Russo, and Torres, eds. pp. 251-267 (15)

Pathak, Zakia and Rajan, Rajeswari Sunder, "'Shahbano'." In Feminists Theorize the Political, Judith Butler and Joan W. Scott, eds. pp. 257-279 (22)

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Week 8: May 23   Medicine in the body in the Past, Part 1

Duden, Barbara, The Woman Beneath the Skin
Bassuk, Ellen L, "The Rest Cure: Repetition or Resolution of Victorian Women's Conflicts" in Susan Rubin Suleimn, ed., The Female Body in Western Culture pp. 139-151. (12)

Week 9: May 30   Medicine in the Past, Part 2

**Charlotte Furth will join us for class discussion


Furth, Charlotte, "Rethinking Van Gulik: Sexuality and Reproduction in Traditional Chinese Medicine" in Gilmartin et. al., Engendering China, pp. 125-146 (21)

--------"Androgyinous Males and Deficient Females: Biology and Gender Boundaries in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century China," Late Imperial China 9.2:1-31 (30)


[(untitled) chapter on development of discipline of gynecology in Song China (unpublished manuscript) (75)]


Larson, Gerald James, "The Concept of the Body in Ayurveda and the Hindu Philosophical systems" in Kasulis et. al, eds., Self as Body in Asian Theory and Practice pp. 103-121 (18)

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**May 31 Noon Charlotte Furth will address the Cross Cultural Women's History Lunchtime seminar

Week 10: June 6   Wrap up discussion; presentation of final essays.