

History 201Q, Spring 1995
The Female Body Across Time and Space

Beverly Bossler
Hum. Soc Sci 3229
2-3654; bjbossler@ucdavis.edu

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

201Q/Spring 1995

Syllabus/2

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

Martin, Emily The Woman in the Body

Caskey, Noelle, "Interpreting Anorexia Nervosa" in Susan Rubin Suleimn, ed., The Female Body in Western Culture pp. 175-189. (14)

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 Suleimn, 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

Hay, John, "The Body Invisible in Chinese Art?" in Zito and Barlow, eds., Body, Subject, and Power in China pp. 42-77 (35)

Ko, Dorothy, Teachers of the Inner Chambers, pp. 143-176 (33)

"Female Circumcision and Genital Operations in Egypt and the Sudan: A Dilemma for Medical Anthropology" in Medical Anthropology Quarterly New Series 5.1 (March 1991) pp. 3-13, and associated commentaries pp. 14-28 (14).

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)

Anagost, Ann, "The Politicized Body" in Zito and Barlow, eds., Body, Subject, and Power in China, pp. 131-156 (25)

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)

Week 7 (continued) Lewis, Jan, "The Republican Wife: Virture 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)

Week 8: May 23 Medicine and 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, "Ming-Qing Medicine and The Construction of Gender" in Chin-dai Chung-kuo fu-nü shi yen-chiu (Research on Women in Modern Chinese History) 2:229-250 (June 1994).

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

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

-----"Concepts of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Infancy in Ch'ing Dynasty China," Journal of Asian Studies 46.1:7-35 (28).

_____(untitled) chapter on development of discipline of gynecology in Song China (unpublished manuscript) (75)

Kuriyama, Shigehisa "The Imagination of Winds and the Development of the Chinese Conception of the Body" in Zito and Barlow, eds., Body, Subject, and Power in China, pp. 23-41) (18)

Farquhar, Judith, "Multiplicity, Point of View, and Responsibility in Traditional Chinese Healing" in Zito and Barlow, eds., Body, Subject, and Power in China, pp. 78-99 (21)

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)

**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.