

Department of History
Huron University College at Western University
Summer Day, Second Term, 2023

Basic Course Information

Course Number:	History 2615G (Section 550)
Course Name:	Chinese Women's Biography
Prerequisites:	None
Anti-requisite:	None
Instructor Name:	Dr. Jun Fang
Email:	jfang9@huron.uwo.ca
Scheduled Class Time:	Mon.-Thu., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Office Hours:	Mon. & Wed., 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Course Description

This course studies the long Chinese tradition of women's biography by critically analyzing a variety of biographical sources, including records on "chaste women" in dynastic histories. It also examines how women's biography served particular political, social, and cultural enterprises of the imperial and modern Chinese state and society.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course students will be able to: (1) understand Chinese biographical traditions and forms; (2) evaluate historiographical debates among historians on Chinese women's biography; (3) read and analyze primary sources in ways that recognize their value and limitations; (4) sharpen their analytical skills; (5) articulate their critical views, both in class discussion and in written work; (6) demonstrate the value of historical inquiry.

Class Methods

The course consists of daily lectures and tutorials. Students are expected to attend every class and actively participate in the discussions of the assigned readings. Both lectures and tutorials will be conducted via Zoom.

Required Textbook and Weekly Readings

1. Jun Fang and Lifang He, *The Romance of a Literatus and His Concubine in Seventeenth-Century China* (Hong Kong: Proverse, 2019). Available at UWO Bookstore.
2. Daily course readings available online at the course website.

Method of Evaluation/Assessment

1. A biography of Dong Xiaowan (1624-1651), primarily based on *The Reminiscences of Plum-Shaded Convent* (the main body of *The Romance of a Literatus and His Concubine in Seventeenth-Century China*) and 2,500-3,000 words in length, is due on **Aug. 1, 2023** (Tue.). It is worth 40% of the final mark.
2. An open-book exam, to be held on **Aug. 8, 2023** (Tues.), is worth 40%.
3. Class participation will account for 20% of the final mark. Students will be marked following each class. Those who attend every class and participate in every discussion in such a fashion as to indicate that they have read and thoughtfully considered the material will receive 100 percent of the participation mark. Those who attend every class but do not speak will receive 50 percent. **Those who attend less than 50 percent of the classes and tutorial discussions will fail the course.**

Teaching Schedule

- Jul. 24 Introduction & Women's Biography in Chinese History
Tutorial Reading: Susan Mann, "Biographical Sources and Silences," in Joan Judge and Ying Hu, eds., *Beyond Exemplar Tales: Women's Biography in Chinese History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011), pp. 17-35.
- Jul. 25 Biography of Imperial Consorts in Early Imperial China
Tutorial Reading: Nancy Lee Swann, "Biography of the Empress Teng: A Translation from the Annals of the Later Han Dynasty," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 51, No. 2 (Jun. 1931), pp. 138-159.
- Jul. 26 Biography of Imperial Consorts in Late Imperial China
Tutorial Reading: Francis Woodman Cleaves, "The Biography of the Empress Cabi in the *Yuan Shib*," *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, Vol. 3/4, Part 1 (1979-1980), pp. 138-150.
- Jul. 27 Biography of Chaste and Heroic Women
Tutorial Reading: "A Wife's Sacrifices: Living Funeral Inscription for My Wife, Madam Sun (1769-1833)," in Patricia Ebrey, Ping Yao and Cong Zhang, eds., *Chinese Funeral Biographies* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2019), pp. 241-258.
- Jul. 31 Biography of Buddhist Nuns
Tutorial Reading: Kathryn Ann Tsai, trans., *Lives of the Nuns: Biographies of Chinese Buddhist Nuns from the Fourth to Sixth Centuries* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1994), pp. 17-35.
- Aug. 1 Biography of Women Writers in Imperial Period (**Written Assignment Due**)
Tutorial Reading: Grace Fong, "A Recluse of the Inner Quarters: The Poet Ji Xian (1614-1683)," *Early Modern Women*, Vol. 2 (Fall 2007), pp. 29-41.

- Aug. 2 Biography of Women of the Underworld
Tutorial Reading: Dian Murray, "One Woman's Rise to Power: Cheng I's Wife and the Pirates," *Historical Reflections*, Vol. 8, No. 3 (Fall 1981), pp. 147-161.
- Aug. 3 Biography of Woman Soldiers and Assassins
Eugenia Lean, "The Assassin and Her Revenge," in *Public Passions: The Trial of Shi Jianqiao and the Rise of Popular Sympathy in Republican China* (Berkeley: University of Californian Press, 2007), pp. 21-48.
- Aug. 7 Civic Holiday
- Aug. 8 In-class Exam
- Aug. 9 Biography of Women Writers in the 20th Century
Tutorial Reading: Ding Ling, "My Life as a Chinese Writer," *The Iowa Review*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (Spring – Summer, 1984), pp. 9-15
- Aug. 10 Biography of Women Educators in the 20th Century
Tutorial Reading: Ruth Hayhoe, "Xie Xide: An Outstanding Scientist and Educator," in *Portraits of Influential Chinese Educators* (Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Springer, 2007), pp. 172-175 & 186-203.

Rules and Regulations

The History Department has specified that:

1. All essays are to be typed and double-spaced.
2. Footnotes, endnotes and bibliographies are to be prepared according to the Departmental Guide.
3. Late marks are calculated on the paper copy submitted to the instructor or in the Essay Drop Box. Late penalties are calculated according to calendar day, including weekends.
4. In first and second year courses lateness will be penalized as follows: First day late -- 3 marks deduction. Each subsequent calendar day late -- 2 marks per day deduction.
5. Third and fourth year seminars will be penalized for lateness at the rate of half a grade (5%) per day.
6. No paper or seminar will be accepted if it is more than seven calendar days late.
7. Extensions will only be given for assignments worth more than 10% with medical documentation submitted through Academic Counseling.
8. Since this is an essay course, students must complete the written assignments worth more than 10% to pass the course.

Appeal

Before appealing a mark, take time to consider the assignment and the instructor's comments. Then discuss the mark with the instructor. If the resolution is not satisfactory, make your appeal in writing to Dr. Tom Peace (tpeace@huron.uwo.ca).

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Summer 2023

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following

website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_calendar) . The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between [The University of Western Ontario](http://www.uwo.ca) and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the

final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/> Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/> Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1> Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/> Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/> Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:
huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office:
safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -
[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)