GSWS 333-4: RUTH WYNN WOODWARD ADVANCED SEMINAR: GENDER AND ETHNICITY IN MODERN CHINA

Professor: Dr. Guldana Salimjan
Email: salimjan_guldana@sfu.ca
Office: AQ 5098
Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Thursdays 8:30 – 12:20; AQ 4140

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will guide students to understand the operation and validation of state power through the representational politics of gender, ethnicity, and class categories in the People’s Republic of China. We employ an interdisciplinary perspective that includes historical and anthropological analysis, gender and performance studies, and critical Indigenous studies. Questions that guide this course are: How are nation-building and state projects of gender and ethnicity entangled with each other? How have discourses of gender and ethnicity changed over time? How do gender construction and ethnic hierarchy solidify exploitation and control over certain national subjects? What have been and continue to be key socio-political discourses used during China’s development, and at what expense to the autonomy of national minorities or social and environmental justice? How can we understand the exacerbation of state violence and ethnic tensions in China today?

The assignments in this course cumulatively exercise skills of recognizing gendered discourse in public forums, understanding the stakes of deconstructing them, and forming a meaningful narrative out of criticism. The students can expect to improve their analytical writing abilities, presentation skills, and learn about Chinese history and contemporary China from the oft-overlooked but surprisingly comprehensive perspective of gender and ethnicity. There is no Chinese language requirement for this course. Chinese primary sources and materials are translated to English.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS:
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

COURSE TEXTS AND COURSEWARE:
- Various content (handouts, journal articles, videos etc.) available on Canvas and/or via SFU library databases.
- Exercises handed out in class.

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:
Participation and Attendance 15%
Map quiz (x2) 10%
In-class Assessments (x5) 25%
Critical Response Essay (x3) 30%
Poster presentations (final) 20%

PREREQUISITE: 30 units including three units in GSWS or WS or GDST.