

# THE CHINESE BODY IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE: MEDICINE, FOOD, AND FOOTBINDING

AP/HIST 1074 6.0A

F/W 2020/2021

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This course uses the Chinese body as an entry point into the richness and complexity of daily life in Chinese history. It focuses on two preeminent concerns in Chinese civilization—health and food—and on the widely condemned but little understood Chinese bodily practice of footbinding.

The course is divided into three sections:

HEALING THE CHINESE BODY

NOURISHING THE CHINESE BODY

FOOTBINDING AND THE CHINESE BODY

We will explore these themes through readings, images, film, and literature. Throughout these explorations we will continue to revisit the following overriding questions: How does an examination of everyday bodily experience deepen our understanding of Chinese history and highlight its particularities? How do Chinese and Western notions of the body differ and what do these differences signal about broader cultural differences?

## DELIVERY OF COURSE CONTENT

Given the restrictions imposed by the current pandemic the course will be delivered **remotely**. It will use the Hyflex model. The following guidelines are **tentative** as we are still determining the most effective ways to deliver the course material.

**Lectures will be recorded**, posted on the course Moodle site, and available for you to access each week.

The weekly **Tutorial** which will be focused on primary sources will be delivered in real time on **Zoom**. We will have both full class discussions and breakout sessions during which students will discuss the materials in small groups.

Students who cannot attend the online Tutorials will post **weekly written responses** to discussion questions on the Tutorial readings in a chat forum on Moodle.

## COURSE MATERIALS

We will use three kinds of materials in class:

- books that you are encouraged to purchase
- electronic resources which will be posted on our class Moodle site
- electronic resources you can access through your York library account

## ASSIGNMENTS:

**Participation: 20%**

Actively engage in discussions of the readings and the issues they raise **either** in the Zoom Tutorials or through written responses in the Moodle forum.

**Small assignments: 10%**

1. Assignment on using electronic resources and our Moodle site
2. Map exercise

**Exams: 30%**

Two *MIDTERM EXAMS*

Midterm exams will be on material covered in the unit immediately preceding the exam. The second exam will not be cumulative.

The exam format will be identifications and short answers.

The exams will be posted on Moodle at a set time and students will have 24 hours to complete them.

**Short essay: 15%**

Paper on HEALING THE CHINESE BODY, 4-6 pages (1000-1750 words), end of first term.

5 potential topics will be handed out 2 weeks in advance and you will have the opportunity to discuss them in groups in the Tutorial or in the Moodle Forum. Two of these five topics will be on the assignment posted the last day of class at the end of the fall term. You will write on one of the two. The essay will be due one week after the essay topics are posted.

**Final essay: 25%**

THE CHINESE BODY IN HISTORICAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE, 8-12 pages (2000-3500) words

5 potential topics will be handed out 2 weeks in advance and you will have the opportunity to discuss them in groups in the tutorial or in the Moodle Forum. Two of these five topics will be on the assignment posted the last day of class. You will write on one of the two. The essay will be due one week after the essay topics are posted.