

Gary P. Leupp

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East 101

## History 94

# Gender and Sexuality in Japanese History

This course focuses on the historical construction of gender and sexuality in Japan from prehistoric times to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Emphasis will be placed on connections between gender, class, and ethnic identity. The reading schedule, involving primary materials in translation, such as Buddhist scripture, mytho-history, courtly fiction, diaries, plays, Confucian tracts and a variety of secondary works, is fairly heavy. You will not be quizzed on the readings, but be expected to come to class having put some thought into them and the issues they raise. Each class will begin with an informal lecture but the bulk of the period will be devoted to discussion of the readings.

Grades will be based upon regular attendance, class participation, individual reports, and two short (10-page) interpretive essays.

Books for purchase:

Rossette Willig, trans., *The Changelings: A Classical Japanese Court Tale* (Stanford University Press, 1983)

Gail Lee Bernstein, ed., *Recreating Japanese Women, 1600-1945* (University of California Press, 1991)

Gary Leupp, *Male Colors: The Construction of Homosexuality in Japan* (University of California Press, 1995)

Ariyoshi Sawako, *The Doctor's Wife* (Tuttle, 1978)

*Tentative Syllabus*  
(More readings may be substituted or added)

1/21 **Introduction**

1/28 **Prehistoric Religion: Men and Women in the Japanese Myths**

readings: David L. Philippi, trans., *Kojiki: A Japanese Classic* (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1968), pp. 47-103, 257-67

John C. Pelzel, "Human Nature in the Japanese Myths," in Albert C. Craig and Donald Shively, eds., *Personality in Japanese History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1970), pp. 29-56

W. G. Aston, trans., *Nihongi: Chronicles of Japan from the Earliest Times to A.D. 697* (Tuttle, 2005), pp. 51-2

[no individual report]

#### 2/4 **The Impact of Buddhism**

Aston, trans., *Nihongi*, pp. 90-120

Alan Spoonberg, "Attitudes Towards Women and the Feminine in Early Buddhism," in *Buddhism, Sexuality and Gender* (State University of New York Press, 1992), pp. 3-36

[excerpts], Tsunoda Ryûsaku et al., eds., *Sources of Japanese Tradition* (Columbia University Press), vol. 1, pp. 3-11

Individual report: Diana Y. Paul, *Women in Buddhism* (Stanford University Press, 1985)

#### 2/11 **Women, Power and the Throne in the Nara and Heian Periods**

Kyoko Motomachi Nakamura, trans., *Miraculous Stories of the Japanese Buddhist Tradition: the Nihon Ryôiki of the Monk Kyôkai* (Harvard University Press, 1973), pp. 244-48; 165-6; 276-83

Richard Bowring, "The Female Hand in Heian Japan: a First Reading," in *The Female Autograph: Theory and Practice of Autobiography from the Tenth to the Twentieth Century* (University of Chicago Press), pp. 46-57

#### 2/25 **Heian**

Ivan Morris, "The Women of Heian and their Relationships with Men," in *The World of the Shining Prince* (New York: Kodansha, 1994), pp. 211-61

Willig, *The Changelings* (all), pp. 13-239

Individual report: Edward Seidensticker, trans., *The Gossamer Years: The Diary of a Noblewoman in Heian Japan* (Tuttle, 1974)

#### 3/4 **Gender, Sexuality and Monasticism; Monastic Homosexuality**

Hosokawa Ryôichi, "Medieval Nuns and Nunneries: The Case of Hokkeiji," in *Women and Class in Japanese History* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999), pp. 81-98

Margaret Childs, "The Tale of Genmu," in *Reflecting Sorrow: Revelatory Tales of Late Medieval Japan* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1991), pp. 31-52

Leupp, *Male Colors*, pp. 11-57

Individual report: Ohtani Yoshiko, *The Life of Eshinni, Wife of Shinran Shonin* (Kyoto: Jôdôshû Honganji, 1990)

### 3/11 **Sex Roles in Medieval Society**

Hitomi Tonomura, "Black Hair and Red Trousers: Gendering the Flesh in Medieval Japan," *American Historical Review*, vol. 93, no. 1 (Feb. 1994), pp. 132-154 [read online on JSTOR]

Wakita Haruko, "The Medieval Household and Gender Roles," in Tonomura et al., eds., *Women and Class in Japanese History* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999), pp. 81-98

Barbara Ruch, "The Other Side of Culture in Medieval Japan," in Kozo Yamamura and J. W. Hall, eds., *The Cambridge History of Japan*, vol. 3, *Medieval Japan* (Cambridge University Press, 1990), pp. 500-43

Individual report: Takemi Momoko, "Menstruation Sutra Belief in Japan," *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, vol. 10, nos. 2-3 (1983), 229-46

### 3/18 **Individual Presentations and Discussion**

#### 3/25 **The Tokugawa Transformation, I: The Samurai**

Kaibara Ekken, "Onna Daigaku," from *The Way of Contentment and Women and Wisdom of Japan: Greater Learning for Women* (1979), pp. 33-46

Ihara Saikaku, "Though Bearing an Umbrella, He Was Rained Upon," in Paul Schalow, trans., *The Great Mirror of Male Love* (Stanford University Press, 1990), pp. 97-104

Ueda Akinari, "The Lust of the White Serpent," in Leon Zolbrod, trans., *Ugetsu monogatari: Tales of Moonlight and Rain* (Tuttle, 1977), pp. 161-84

Individual report: Yamakawa Kikue, *Women of the Mito Domain: Recollections of Samurai Family Life* (Tokyo University Press, 1992)

#### 4/1 **The Tokugawa Transformation, II: Commoners' Marriages and the Commodification of Sexuality**

Leupp, *Male Colors*, pp. 58-204

Kathleen S. Uno, "Women and Changes in the Household Division of Labor," in *Recreating Japanese Women* (University of California Press, 1990), pp. 17-41

Chikamatsu Monzaemon, "The Love-Suicide at Sonezaki," in Donald Keene, trans., *Major Plays of Chikamatsu* (UNESCO, 1961), pp. 39-56

Individual report: Celia Segawa Seigle: *Yoshiwara: The Glittering World of the Japanese Courtesan* (University of Hawai'i Press, 1983)

Individual report: William R. Lindsey, *Fertility and Pleasure: Ritual and Sexual Values in Tokugawa Japan* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2007)

#### 4/8 **The Meiji Transformation; Early Women's Movement**

Sharon Sievers, *Flowers in Salt* (Stanford University Press, 1983), pp. 1-113  
Anne Walthall, "Matsuo Taseko and the Meiji Restoration: Texts of Self and Gender," in Tonomura et al., eds., *Women and Class in Japanese History*, pp. 217-40  
Mikiso Hane, "The Sekirankai" in *Reflections on the Way to the Gallows: Voices of Japanese Rebel Women* (Pantheon: 1988), pp. 125-74  
Leupp, pp. 198-204

Individual report: Nakano Makiko. *Makiko's Diary: A Merchant Wife in 1910 Kyoto*

#### 4/15 **Fascism, War, U.S. Occupation and Beyond**

Thomas R. H. Havens, "Women and War in Japan, 1937-45," *American Historical Review*, vol. 80, no. 5 (1975), pp. 913-34  
Yoshimi Yoshiaki, *Comfort Women: Sexual Slavery in the Japanese Military during World War II* (Columbia University Press, 2000), pp. [ ]  
"GIs Frequent Japan's 'Comfort Women,'" Associated Press, April 25, 2007 <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=3079105&CMP=OTC-RSSFeeds0312>

Mary Brinton. *Women and the Economic Miracle* (University of California Press, 1994), pp. [ ]

Individual reports: Sabine Frühstück. *Colonizing Sex: Sexology and Social Control in Modern Japan* (University of California Press, 2003); Jane Condon, *A Half Step Behind: Japanese Women of the '80s* (Tuttle, 1992)

#### 4/22 **Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Japan**

"Making Fun of Father," in Ian Buruma, *Behind the Mask: On Sexual Demons, Sacred Mothers, Transvestites, Gangsters and Other Japanese Cultural Heroes* (New York: 1984), pp. 196-207

Sandra Buckley, "The Foreign Devil Returns: Packing Sexual Practice and Risk and in Contemporary Japan," in Lorene Manderson and Margaret Jolly, eds., *Sites of Desire, Economies of Pleasure: Sexualities in Asia and the Pacific* (University of Chicago Press, 1997), pp. 262-91

Wim Lunsing, "Gay Boom in Japan: Changing Views of Homosexuality," *Thamyris*, vol. 4, no. 2 (Autumn 1997), pp. 267-93

#### 4/29 **Presentations and Discussion**

