

## Outline for 9/13 and 9/14 Lectures

### **PPT Women in Chinese History: 1700 BCE – 1912**

- Yin-Yang and Perception of Gender
- The Changing Ideal of Femininity and Womanly Virtue
- Women's Life Course – Data from Tang China
- Marriage Practices in Chinese History
- The Practice of Courtesanship
- The Practice of Foodbinding
- Women in Chinese Religious Tradition

### **Discussion Questions for Ebrey's *The Inner Quarters***

1. What are the major themes of the book?
2. In your opinion, what type of primary sources made the most convincing case?
3. In the introduction chapter of the book, Ebrey argues that the Sung dynasty differed dramatically from the T'ang dynasty, in what way such difference affected Sung women's lives?
4. According to Ebrey, what is the philosophical/ideological basis for gender institutions throughout traditional China?
5. What traits and virtues were considered ideal for women in traditional China?
6. What were the functions of marriage in traditional China? What types of marriage arrangement are discussed in the book?
7. Did Sung women have any power and influence in the family and in society? Please give examples.
8. In what ways does this book help you in your understanding of women in Chinese history?

### **In Depth Discussion of the Following Sections in *The Red Brush***

“Ban Zhao,” 17-42

“The Poet of a Single Line: Xie Daoyun”, 136-144

“Buddhist Nuns and Daoist Mystics,” 153-163

“Empress Xu and the Budhisattva Guanyin,” 304-319

“The Beheaded Feminist: Qiu Jin,” 765-808

“In a Script of Their Own,” 542-566