

Course: **WOMEN AND CHINA'S REVOLUTIONS**  
Instructor: Kyle E. David  
Course level: Lower-level undergraduate survey  
Enrollment: 15 – 30+

Historian Gail Hershatter asks, “If we place women at the center of our account of China’s past two centuries, how does this change our understanding of what happened?” Using this question as our point of departure, this course charts the history of women’s lives from 1800 to the present day. In doing so, we will examine how women as a form of labor and “woman” as a symbol and means of social transformation shifted throughout China’s modern history.

This course uses as its core textbook Gail Hershatter’s *Women and China’s Revolutions* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019). We will complement Hershatter’s work with first-hand accounts of how women experienced particular historical moments. These include Xie Bingyi’s *A Woman Soldier’s Own Story* and Rae Yang’s *Spider Eaters*. Similarly, in order to take the course to the present day, the final weeks of the course will examine in what ways history continues to impact the present. We will do so by reading the work excerpts from Leslie T. Chang’s *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China* (2009) and Leta Hong Fincher’s *Betraying Big Brother: The Feminist Awakening in China* (2018). In addition to attendance, participation, and weekly reading quizzes, students will complete a take-home mid-term examination and an in-class final examination.

Week 1: Course Introduction  
Week 2: The Gendered Labor of Empire, 1800 – 1840  
Week 3: Disturbances, 1840 – 1900  
Week 4: Revolutionary Currents, 1895 – 1912  
Week 5: Imagined Futures, 1912 – 1927  
Week 6: The Modern Girl Around the World Project  
Week 7: Regulatory Regimes, 1928 – 1937  
Week 8: Mid-Course Review  
Week 9: Wartime Women Part I, 1928 – 1941  
Week 10: Wartime Women Part II, 1935 – 1949  
Week 11: The Socialist Construction of Women, 1949 – 1978  
Week 12: Capitalized Women, 1978 – the present  
Week 13: Factory Girls  
Week 14: Leftover Women  
Week 15: China’s #MeToo Movement  
Week 16: Course Wrap Up