

Curriculum Project for East Asia. Origins to 1800, Spring 2021

Behind the Legend of Mulan- the female images in China

1.Rationale.

As the first lesson of my Chinese culture class, this lesson will mainly lead students to understand Chinese women's social status and roles from ancient times to modern times. At the same time, it will teach students to explore society's expectations of women through their appreciation of Mulan movies. Finally, it will also combine the current social problems and phenomena in China to make students think about the differences in the influence of women in the United States and China.

2.Skills and Content Objectives

National Standards in World History, World History Across the Eras, Standard 1:

Long-term changes and recurring patterns in world history

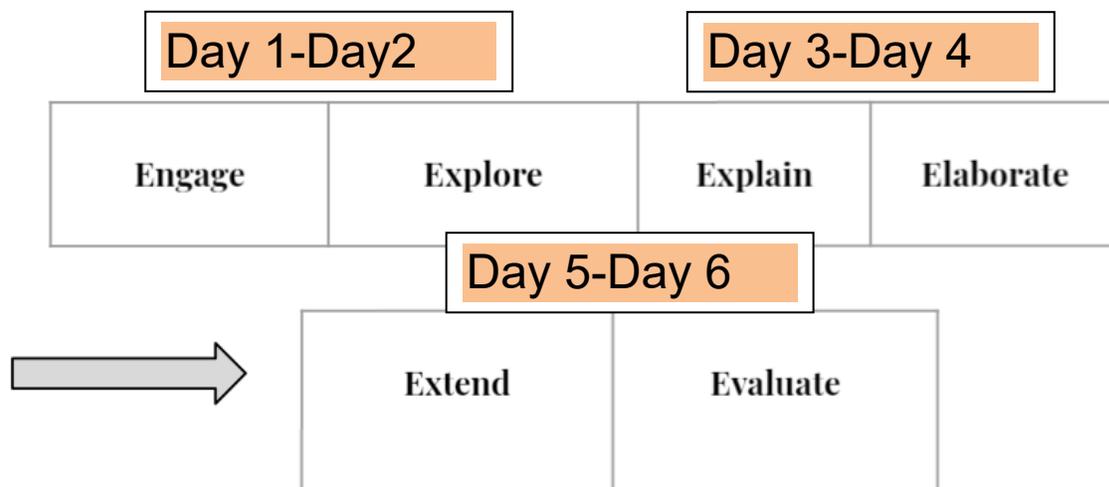
5-12 Analyze how ideals and institutions of freedom, equality, justice, and citizenship have changed over time and from one society to another.

Therefore, after this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the social status and role of Chinese women in history
2. Understand the influence of women on society in Chinese history
3. Interpret the current society's expectations of women based on the cultural background and historical knowledge learned
4. Compare the status and social influence of women in the United States and China

3.Detailed lesson plan

General Class Procedure



Engage

we will start by watching the [original Disney movie](#) to familiarize the class with the general storyline.

- Tasks:
 - 1.Watch the [original Disney movie](#) Mulan

Explore

Students will explore what core values or important aspects are behind the movie-- the female images in the movie.

- Tasks:
 - 2.Make a storyline of the movie, and use five key words to summary the Mulan.

Explain

For this third step, I will introduce the original Mulan story using [bilingual materials](#). Following this introduction, I will incorporate explanation of Chinese signature values, such as loyalty to home and country, and the female's roles in ancient China.

- Tasks:
 - 3.Read the Mulan story [here](#) and compare with the storyline of the movie, ask the students what have changed in the movie and why.

Elaborate

The students analyze and compare the two versions and find out the reasons Mulan was popular in U.S and China, and how did it reflect on the certain history background- that gender role expectations and norms.

- Tasks:
 4. Discuss the moral of story is loyalty to the home and country or women's power

Extend

Teacher will have the class link the broad values to current events, such as to talk about the details of [China has celebrated some of its female Covid heroes](#), the contemporary beauty standards and expectations for women, i.e. the topic of "[leftover women](#)"; [popular app filters](#) that "brighten" (whiten) the subject; and let the students better understand the current female status through the guest interview(parents).

- Tasks:
 5. Analyze the social status and role of Chinese women from the news-ask the students to think about the expectations and pressure towards the women
 6. Learn the change of [china beauty standards](#), and discuss the factors which made the standards happen.
 7. Host a forum with guest speakers to share their experience in China as a women, students need to prepare the questions before.

Evaluate

Students apply what they have learned to conduct research and complete individual projects- Students are asked to compare the social status of women in the United States and China from one aspect (career development, political status, family, social influence). This will help me to evaluate students' understanding of the connection between Chinese core values and current policy reactions.

- Tasks:
 8. Students present.

Other References

1. <https://phi.history.ucla.edu/nchs/world-history-content-standards/world-history-era-4/#section-3>
2. <https://movies.disney.com/mulan-2020>
3. <https://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/chtxts/Muhan.html>
4. <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/documentaries/leftover-women/>
5. <https://studycli.org/chinese-culture/chinese-standards-of-beauty/>