

# East Asian Women in Historical and Cross-Cultural Perspectives

HIST4384

Monday, 4-7 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Xiaoping Cong



Ladies with western musical instruments



Source: Published by Omori Kakutarō, wood block print (detail), c. 1890, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

During which period of Japanese history was this print most likely created?

This upper-division undergraduate research seminar provides historical and contemporary perspectives on East Asian women in their home countries and in the United States. One of the purposes of this course is to expose students to diverse historical and anthropological topics concerning East Asian women. This course also introduces theoretical debates on gender, colonialism, and post-colonialism, for the development of students' critical thinking. By studying theories as well as examining historical and ethnographic sources, students will explore how power works in each locality and on the worldwide scale as related to a particular political economy pertaining to each historical period. Moreover, the course intends to help students develop multi-cultural perspectives by comparing and contrasting gender issues which have emerged in different economic, social, and cultural environments. At the same time, the course is also community-oriented that requires students look into the experience of East Asian women in Houston area through conducting interviews and examining archival documents. The final research paper should be the combination of both theoretical examination and the case study.