

Handout #7

Sample Reading Guide for Students

For Required Reading #1, Chapter 2 in Eastman’s *Family, Fields, and Ancestors*, pay attention to the following concepts:

- According to Eastman, what is “Chinese familism”?
- What was the status of women in the Qing? How does the author argue that marriage was an oppressive institution for women in the Qing? What evidence does he have to sustain his argument?
- What were “major” and “minor” forms of marriage?
- In what ways does the study of marital infidelity in Haishan confirm or negate the image that China was a Confucian society?

For Required Reading #2 (excerpts from the *Analects*), pay attention to how Confucius defines the concepts of benevolence (*jen*), filial piety, and harmonious family relations. How do these values contribute to good government and a harmonious society? Would you argue that it is justifiable for the state to use its power to enforce these values?

For Required Reading #3, the *Classic of Filial Piety*, focus on how Confucius made the argument that filial piety is the first step toward social harmony or social order. Do you think morality, in this case filial piety, has its role in politics?