Course Description and Objectives

In the recent decades the churches in Northeast Asia (Korea, Japan and China) have 
emerged as a powerhouse behind the rise of the Christianity in the global South, and are 
bound to make significant impact upon the worldwide Christian movement in the future. 
In the meantime, the needs for evangelization in the region and the challenges for the 
churches remain immense. This course will survey the historical experiences of the 
churches in the contexts of Korea, Japan and China, compare the dynamics of the 
Christian presence in three countries, discover the causes behind different outcome of 
the Christian witnesses, and explore the ways to enhance the Christian unity and 
advance the Christian cause in the region. The learning objectives of this course are 
stated as follows:

First, Students will have opportunities to learn the shared cultural and religious 
traditions of Korean, Japan and China, and the historical paths three nations took. They 
will gain awareness of what makes Northeast Asia a unique region culturally and socially.

Second, Students will be able to trace and compare the historical trajectories of the 
churches in three countries, to grasp the commonalities and differences of their 
historical experiences, and to examine a variety of missiological approaches adopted and 
implemented in the region. The communication, interaction, and cooperation among the 
Christian communities in three countries will be highlighted.
Third, Students will be guided to assess the results of the Christian missionary endeavors in three countries and to evaluate the existing theories about the huge differences in these results. We will examine the theological, historical, and social factors behind the growth and decline of Christian communities in the region, and draw lessons from these factors.

Fourth, Students will have opportunities to grasp the current issues and challenges the churches in Korea, Japan and China are facing, and to consider the churches’ possible responses to the challenges. We will contemplate the churches’ potential impact upon global Christianity, and how the churches within and outside the region can support one another.

Fifth, Students will become acquainted with the literatures, theories, and methodologies in the comparative studies of Christianity in Northeast Asia.

Requirements

1, Two integration papers summarizing course contents, readings, and personal reflections. Length: ten pages for each, double-spaced, turned in the middle and end of the term. The due dates: ? Hard copies are required. (40%)

2, One research paper. The subjects must be related to the course topics and need to be approved by the instructor. The study should be comparative in nature. More specifically, it could focus on particular issues by drawing Christian experiences from different countries, or on the church in a particular country in comparison with the churches in other countries. The length: 15-20pp, double-spaced, with footnotes and bibliography as needed. The Paper Topic Due Date: ? Paper Due Date: ?. A hard copy is required. (50%)

3, Class presentation: In Week 12, 13 and 14 each student is required to present the results of their research for the term paper to the whole class, and responsible for 25 minutes in one class session, including presentation and Q & A time. Each student can design the format of their presentation, and employ any audio-video means or
multi-media to articulate their points。(10%)

### Assignment and Grading Summary

Assignments should be turned in (hard copy) in class on the due date.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two integration papers</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>One research paper</td>
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<td>Class presentation</td>
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### Required Textbooks


Some articles and materials will be assigned in class during the semester.

**Other Texts Included in Readings**


Jongeneel, Jan A.B. and others, eds., *Christian Presence and Progress in North-East Asia,*
Historical and Comparative Studies (Peter Lang, 2011).


Sanneh, Lamin, Disciples of All Nations, Pillars of World Christianity (Oxford University Press, 2008). Call No. Global Shelf 211.


Topics and Required Readings
(The readings will be assigned prior to the opening of the semester.)

Part I Historical Developments

Week 1, Introduction: Course overview: syllabus; Methodology of comparative study; Social and cultural contexts
Readings:

Week 2, China: From the 7th century to the 1950s

Readings:

Week 3, Japan: From the 16th century to 1945

Week 4 Reading Week

Week 5, Korea: From the 18th century to the 1950s

Readings:

Week 6, Evaluation and conclusion

Readings:

**Part II Current Status and Issues**

Week 7, Korea: Church growth and worldwide missions

Readings:

Week 8, Japan: Efforts and stagnation

Readings:

Week 9, Reading Week
Readings:

Week 10 China: Resurrection and growth

Readings:

**Part III Future and Prospect**

Week 11, Potential and Impact

Readings:

Week 12, Challenges
How can we participate?

Readings:

Week 13, Students’ presentations

Readings:

Week 14, Final Exam Week

Students’ presentations

**Assignments Due:**

All topics and required readings are subject to change without notice.

**Selected Bibliography**

A34 2002.


