The Missions in China (WM621)
Fall 2012; Monday: 2:00-5:00 pm
Instructors: Dr. Kevin Xiyi Yao,
Office Hours: ROM GL 114; Times: Monday: 9:30-11:30 AM;
Tuesday: 2:00-4:00 PM; Friday: 8:30-10:30 AM (Always best to make appointment)
Contact Information: E-mail: xyao@gordonconwell.edu; Tel: 978-646-4286
Byington Scholar:
Course Website: Log into sakai.gcts.edu and click on the tab labeled “WM 621 HA.”

Course Description and Objectives
As China is emerging as a global power, and Chinese Church as a powerhouse in global Christian movement, people are asking what impacts the Church in China will make upon the international evangelical movement. By providing a survey and interpretation of the Christian presence in China from the 7th century to the present, this course intends to answer this question from various angles. We will draw the lessons from history, point to the characters of the missions and Church in China, highlight the contemporary situation, project the future developments, and discuss the ways the churches from the other parts of the world relate to the Church in China. The experiences of Chinese Church will be examined in the larger context of global Christian movement, and the past and future relationships between the churches in China and the West will be explored. The history of the Protestant movement in the country will receive primary attention and review. The Learning Objectives of this course are stated as follows:

Learning Objectives
1. Students will have the opportunities to understand the cultural, social and historical contexts of the missions and the Church in China throughout the ages: whether dominated by Confucianism or Marxism.

2. Students will examine the historical progress of missions and the Church in China from the 7th century to the early 19th century, grasp the characteristics of various mission
paradigms involved, and become acquainted with key figures and epochs in the history. The Church’s historical interactions with the traditional culture and religions will be reviewed.

3. Students will be guided to pay special attention to the contemporary developments after 1949, and explore such uniquely Chinese phenomenon as the Three-self Patriotic Movement and house church movement, to grasp the current dynamics and trends of Christian movement, to track such significant Chinese mission initiatives as the Back-to-Jerusalem Movement, and to understand the issues (including the government’s policy) and challenges the Church are facing in the 21st century.

4. Students will reflect on the significances of the missions and Church in China in relation to the Christian movements in Northeast Asia and the world. We will discuss the lessons Chinese Church can share with the global churches, and the potential contributions it can make to the global missions. Students will be made aware of the mission possibilities and opportunities in nowadays China, and learn how to relate to Chinese Church and to partner with it.

5. this course will help students to develop the appreciation of God’s work in China, and to deepen their understanding of the complex history and heritages of Chinese Church. At the end of the class students should be made acquainted with the major literatures and reference tools in the field of the study of Christianity in China.

Requirements

A, Each student is required to write two book reports. The first one is on Lian, Redeemed by Fire, The Rise of Popular Christianity in Modern China; and the second one on Aikman, Jesus in Beijing. The length of each report: five to six pages, double-spaced. The contents: the summary of the book contents, the impact the book has upon you, and other personal reflections and comments on the book. The hard copies are required. (25% x 2=50%) Due dates: 12 Nov; 17 Dec

B. Mid-term Exam (Open Book and take-home, 20%): 15 Oct

C. Final Exam (Open Book and take-home, 25%): 10 Dec
D. Participation and Attendance (5%):
Students’ participation in class is strongly encouraged. The interactions between students and teacher or your questions and comments are highly desirable. Out-of-classroom participations in missions and related events (a field trip to a local Chinese church will be organized) are also encouraged in order to enhance students’ involvements in missions.

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 book reports</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>12 Nov; 17 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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Required Textbooks


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

**Other Texts Included in Readings**


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

Part I  The Missions in Ancient China

Week 1, 10 Sept
Introduction: review of syllabus;
A sketch of Chinese history and cultural evolutions.

Readings:
Bays, Christianity in China, vii-ix
Yao, 1-6, 23-30
Peale, xv-xxx

Week 2, 17 Sept
Christianity in Tang and Yuan Dynasties (The 7th to 13th centuries):
The Nestorian mission approaches and the challenge of indigenization.

Readings:
Bays, 1-16,
Covell, ch.2

Week 3, 24 Sept
Catholic Missions in Ming and Qing Dynasties (The 17th to 18th centuries):
Accommodation or confrontation to the native culture?

Readings:
Bays, ch.2
Covell, ch. 3

Part II  The Missions and Church in Modern China

Week 4  1 Oct
From Robert Morrison to the Second Opium War (1807-1860)
The decades of the preparation

Readings:
Bays, ch.4
Covell, ch.4 & 5

Week 5, 8 Oct
Reading Week: Summarization

Readings:
Lian, 1-31

Week 6, 15 Oct:
Mid-term exam
From the China Inland Mission to the Boxers’ Rebellion (1860-1900)
Explosion of Missions
Hudson Taylor vs Timothy Richard: The Story of two mission approaches;
The Taiping Rebellion: An indigenous Christian movement?

Readings:
Bays, ch.4
Covell, ch. 8 & 9
Yao, 30-36

Week 7, 22 Oct
Growth and Division of Protestant Missionary Movement (1900-1949)
“A House Divided:” Modernism vs Fundamentalism

Readings:
Bays, ch. 5 & 6

Week 8, 29 Oct
The Emergence of Chinese Church and its Initiatives
The liberal theology and its impacts;
The rise of Chinese evangelical movement
Readings:
Yao, 30-92, 279-287
Bays, Christianity in China, 307-316

Part III  The Contemporary Trends and Issues (1949 to the Present)

Week 9, 5 Nov
Adaptation and Survival: 1949 to 1976
The rise of the Three-self Patriotic Movement (TSPM)

Readings:
Bays, ch. 7
Covell, 224-229

Week 10, 12 Nov
Reading Week: Summarization

Readings:
Wickeri, 3-16, 45-109, 113-185

The first book report due

Week 11, 19 Nov
The Rebirth and Revival (The 1980s and 1990s)
Restoration and witness under a Marxist context

Readings:
Bays, ch. 8
Peale, ch. 1

Week 12, 26 Nov
The TSPM: Growth and Stagnation
The government’s policy and management of religion.

Readings:
Week 13, 3 Dec

The House Church Movement: From Countryside to Cities
Mission Initiatives;

Reflection: Miracle after miracle; implications for the global church; What can we learn? How should we participate?

Readings:
Peale, ch.9,10, 13
Lian, 204-247
Cook, 62-72
Sanneh, ch. 8

Week 14, 10 Dec

Final Exam

17 Dec The second book report due.

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

Selected Bibliography


Balcombe, Dennis, One Journey, One Nation: A Autobiography of Dennis Balcombe,
*Missionary to China* (eGenCo. LLC, 2011).


Li, Jieren, *In Search of the Via Media between Christ and Marx: A Study of Bishop Ding Guangxun’s Contextual Theology* (Lund University, 2008).


