The Missions in China (WM621)
Fall 2014; Monday: 2:00-5:00 pm
Instructors: Dr. Kevin Xiyi Yao,
Office Hours: ROM GL 114; Times:
(Always best to make appointment)
Contact Information: E-mail: xyao@gordonconwell.edu;
Tel: 978-646-4286 O);
Byington Scholar: Bin Xia
E-mail: bxia@gcts.edu
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. (20% x 2=40%) Due Date: Oct. 27 and Dec. 8

B. One research paper. The topics should be primarily related to Christianity in China,
but could include Christian communities in East Asian region and overseas Chinese churches. Your topics need to be approved by the instructor. The length: 15-20 pp, double-spaced, with footnotes and bibliography as needed. **Term paper topic due date: Oct. 27; Paper Due date: Dec. 17**  A hard copy is required. (50%)

D. Presentation and Participation:
In Week 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%)

Students’ attendance is important. Two or more absences without explanation will lead to deduction of your grade. Students’ participation in class is strongly encouraged. The interactions between students and teacher or your questions and comments are highly desirable. In order to facilitate class discussion, **you may be assigned some readings prior to certain class sessions.**

A field trip may be organized.

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>40%</td>
<td>Oct. 27 &amp; Dec. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Dec. 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Required Textbooks


Some additional articles and materials will be assigned 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, Sept 8
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, Sept 15
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, Sept 22
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 Sept 29
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, Oct 6
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 6, Oct 13-17: Reading

Readings:
Lian, 1-31
Week 7, Oct 20
Growth and Division of Protestant Missionary Movement (1900-1949)
“A House Divided:” Modernism vs Fundamentalism

Readings:
Bays, ch. 5 & 6

Week 8, Oct 27
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

The first book report due
Term paper topic due

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

Week 9, Nov 3
Adaptation and Survival: 1949 to 1976
The rise of the Three-self Patriotic Movement (TSPM)

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

Week 10, Nov 10-14: Reading

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

Week 11, Nov 17
The Rebirth and Revival (The 1980s and 1990s)
Restoration and witness under a Marxist context

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

Week 12, Nov 24
The TSPM: Growth and Stagnation
The government’s policy and management of religion.

Readings:
Peale, ch. 2-8
Bays, Christianity in China, 338-366

Week 13, Dec 1
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, Dec 8: Presentations

The second book report due.

Dec 17: Term paper due

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


Hattaway, Paul., *Back to Jerusalem, Called to Complete the Great Commission*. Piquant,
2003 (ISBN 1-903689-03-1) Call No. CGC Shelf 28


Jenkins, Philip, The new faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South (Oxford University Press, 2006).

------, The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity (Oxford University Press, 2002).

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


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