

History of Christianity in China

Spring 2010

4 :30—7 :15pm, Thursday

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Course Description:

This course is a survey of the history of Christianity in China. Since Buddhism is recognized as a "Chinese religion", Christianity in its various forms is now the largest "foreign religion" in China and has special significance in the relationship between China and other countries. For this reason, the study of the history of Christianity in China constitutes an important basis for understanding the history of the relationship between China and other countries. Through a systematic study of this history, students will acquire knowledge of Christianity and its enculturation in China, including the four periods of Christian development in China:

- the so-called Nestorian mission from the 7th to 9th centuries during the Tang dynasty,
- the "Nestorian" and Franciscan missions under the Yuan Mongol dynasty (1264-1368),
- the Jesuit and other Catholic missions of the late Ming and early Qing dynasties (1368-1774)
- and the Christian mission in general since the 19th century.

Course Outcomes:

This course will help students to grasp the reasons for the ups and downs of Christian missions in China and to realize the sensitivity and importance of Christianity in China. With this knowledge students should gain a deeper appreciation of Chinese culture and a better understanding of the similarities and differences between China and Western countries.

Course Requirements and Form of Assessment:

During the course there will be one short paper (no less than 4 pages), and one longer final paper (no less than 10 pages). The short paper average will count for 20% of the final grade. The final paper will count for 60% of the final grade. The course also requires each student to have at least one oral presentation. Class participation and oral presentations will count for 20% of the grade.

Late paper policy: The late paper will result in a full grade reduction for the course.

Attendance Policy:

There are NO unexcused absences in this class. Students are expected to attend every class. Students are allowed 2 EXCUSED absences, which require a written medical excuse or written approval from Dean Russell Leigh Moses at the TBC administration offices, and may reflect adversely on the final grade.

Academic Honesty Statement:

Please refer to the following web link for policies on academic honesty:

http://www.luc.edu/cas/pdfs/CAS_Academic_Integrity_Statement_December_07.pdf

Required Text:

Whyte, Bob: *Unfinished Encounter, China and Christianity*, Fount Paperbacks, London 1988.

Reference Readings: (placed on reserve at the TBC Library)

Latourette, Kenneth Scott: *A History of Christian Mission in China*, SPCK, London 1929. Bays,

Daniel H. Ed.: *Christianity in China, From Eighteenth Century to the Present*, Stanford

University Press, Stanford, California 1996.

Overmyer, Daniel L.: *Religions of China*, Waveland Press, 1998.

Palmer, Martin, *The Jesus Sutras*, Ballantine, New York, 2001.

Standaert, Nicolas ed.: *Handbook of Christianity in China, Vol One 635-1800*. Brill, Leiden, Boston, Koln 2001.

Tang, Edmond and Wiest, Jeal-Paul, ed.: *The Catholic Church in Modern China*, Maryknoll, New York Orbis Books, 1993.

Uhalley, Jr. Stephen and Wu, Xiaoxin ed.: *China and Christianity, Burdened Past, Hopeful Future*, M. E. Sharpe, Armonk, New York, London, England 2001.

Recommended Readings:

Adeney, David H.: *China: The Church's Long March*, Regal Books, Venura, California and OMF, Singapore 1985.

Aikman, David: *Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power*. Regnery Publishing, 2003.

Breslin, Thomas A.: *China, American Catholicism and the Missionary*, Pennsylvania State University Press, 1980.

Brown, Thompson G.: *Christianity in the People's Republic of China, Revised Edition*, John Knox Press, Atlanta 1986.

Charbonnier, Jean: *Histoire des Chrétiens de Chine*, Les Indes Savantes, 2002.

Covell, Ralph R.: *Confucius, the Buddha and Christ: A History of the Gospel in China*, Orbis Books, Maryknoll 1986.

Criveller, Gianni: *Preaching Christ in Late Ming China, The Jesuits' presentation of Christ from Matteo Ricci to Giulio Aleni*, Taipei Ricci Institute, 1997.

Gernet, Jacques: *China and the Christian Impact*, Cambridge University Press, 1985.

Kindopp, Jason and Hamrin, Carol Lee ed.: *God and Caesar in China: policy implications of church-state tensions*, Brookings Institution Press, 2004.

Kung, Hans and Ching, Julia: *Christianity and Chinese Religions*, Doubleday, New York 1989.

Madsen, Richard: *China's Catholics*, University of California Press, 1998.

Mungello, D.E. ed.: *The Chinese Rites Controversy, Its History and Meaning*, Nettetal Steyler Verlag, 1994.

Riggert, Ray & Thomas Moore, *The Lost Sutras of Jesus*, Souvenir Press, London, 2004

Ronan, Charles E. and OH, Bonnie B.c. ed.: East Meets West, The Jesuits in China, 1582-1773, Loyola University Press, Chicago, 1988.

Spence, Jonathan, D.: The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci, Faber & Faber, London 1984.

Wickeri, Philip L.: Seeking the Common Ground, Protestant Christianity, The Three-Self Movement, and China's United Front, Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1988.

Recommended Films:

1. video about Matteo Ricci
2. Taofengshan History Video
3. The Cross
4. The Repentance of Shenzhou
5. Raised From Dust (and Church Cinema)

Research Trips:

1. Ricci's tomb
2. Haidian Church-Protestant
3. Nantang Church-Catholic

Class Schedule: 3 hours/week

Wk1

1. Hand out the syllabus
2. Hand out "A Brief History of Christianity in China" authored by Jean-Paul Wiest

3. *video about Matteo Ricci*

Wk2

1. Class Introduction and distribution of oral presentations
2. A summary of Chinese history and the development of religions in China (K. S. Latourette: pp. 6-24; Daniel L. Overmyer: pp. 5-9; 17-54.)
3. Expressions and translations of the term "Christianity" in Chinese language
4. A brief introduction to the political situation in understanding of Christianity in China
5. Legends of Christian missions in ancient China (K. S. Latourette: pp. 46-51.)
6. A survey of the four periods of Christian mission in China (Daniel L. Overmyer: pp. 55-56.)

7. *Video: about Xiao Min the Songwriter*

Wk3

1. The first Nestorian Mission in Tang Dynasty (B. Whyte: pp.33-40; K. S. Latourette: pp. 51-60.)
2. Nestorian missionaries and Chinese Nestorians (N. Standaert ed.: pp.1-2, 18-25)
3. The Nestorian Tablet in Xi'an and other Nestorian texts (N. Standaert ed: pp.2-15; Martin Palmer:

pp. 11-49, 56-59, 169-172.)

4. Video: The Repentance of Shenzhou 1

Wk4

1. Christianity under the Mongols (K. S. Latourette: pp. 61-77.)
2. The Nestorian revival and Nestorian Christians in Yuan Dynasty (Jean Charbonnier: pp.39-49; B. Whyte: pp. 40-42.)
3. The Franciscan mission in Yuan Dynasty (B. Whyte: pp. 43-48; N. Standaert ed.: pp. 68-79; Jean Charbonnier: pp.51-62.)

4. Video: Raised from Dust

Wk5

1. The Jesuit and other catholic missions in China: 1583-1721 (B. Whyte: pp. 49- 71; K. S. Latourette: pp.102-130.)
2. Matteo Ricci and the other Jesuits (C. E. Ronan & B. B, C. OH ed.: pp.3-17; K. S. Latourette: pp.91-98.)

3. Research Trip to Ricci's Tomb

FIRST PAPER DUE (on understanding of Nestorian, Franciscan, Jesuit or other Catholic missions in China)

Wk6

1. Christianity and Chinese Literati (C. E. Ronan & B.C. OH ed.: pp.129-147.)
2. "The Chinese Rites Controversy" (K. S. Latourette: pp.131-155; B. Whyte: pp.71-77.)
3. Survival of the Catholic Churches in the period of forbiddance (K. S. Latourette: pp. 156-184; B Whyte: pp.79-83, 115-117.)
4. Russian Orthodox Church in China (K. S. Latourette: pp.199-200, 486-487, 566, 741-742; N. Standaert ed.: pp.367-372.)

5. Video: Church Cinema

Wk7

1. The first Protestant missionaries at Canton (B. Whyte: pp.95-102; K. S. Latourette: pp.209-227.)
2. The Opium-War and "treaty-ports" of Protestants and Catholics (B. Whyte: pp. 102-111; K. S. Latourette: pp.228-271.)
3. Dynastic decline and the years of turmoil: 1860-1911 (B. Whyte: pp. 113-128.)

4. Video: The Cross 1

Wk8

1. The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (B. Whyte: pp.103-106; K. S. Latourette: pp.282-302.)
2. The Anti-Christian Movement (B. Whyte: pp.129-131.)
3. The Rise of Nationalism and the Boxers' Movement (B. Whyte: pp.137-140; K. S. Latourette: pp.501-526.)

4. Research trip to Nantang Church: Catholic in Beijing

Wk9

1. The Christian education, publication and medical mission in China (B. Whyte: pp. 132-134; D. H. Bays ed.: pp.292-306; K. S. Latourette: pp.338-343, 622-652, 729-732.)
2. "Term Question", history of the translation of the Bible into Chinese (K. S. Latourette: pp.260-263.)

3. Video: The Cross 2

Wk10

1. Christian mission and Chinese revolution: 1912-1949 (B. Whyte: pp.142-151; K. S. Latourette: pp.527-535, 686-704.)
2. Protestants and Catholics in Crisis in 1912-1927 (B. Whyte: pp.151-164.)
3. "Indigenization" of Christian church in China (B. Whyte: pp.178-186; D. H. Bays ed.: pp.307-316.)

4. Video: The Cross 3

Wk11

1. Christian churches in China since 1949 (B. Whyte: pp. 197-228; Edmond Tang and Jeal-Paul Wiest, ed.: pp.7-27.)
2. The "Three Self" and "Patriotic" Movements (B. Whyte: pp.228-233.)
3. Christian Leaders under Communism and Nationalism in China (D. H. Bays ed.: pp.338-352.)
4. The "Hopeless Years" of Chinese churches during the "Cultural Revolution" (B. Whyte: pp.288-291, 295-302, 305-322.)

5. Video: The Temple of Heaven

Wk12.

1. The rebirth of Christianity since 1976 (B. Whyte: pp.337-354; Edmond Tang and Jean-Paul

Wiest, ed.: pp.28-42.)

2. Christian Witness in contemporary China (B. Whyte: pp.416-454.)

3. The phenomenon of "Cultural Christians" in China (S. Uhalley Jr. and X. Wu ed.: pp.283-300.)

4. Reconstruction of a "Chinese Theology" (B. Whyte: pp.476-483.)

6. Video: *Celebrating Christmas in Beijing*

WK13

1. Q and A

2. *Research trip to Haidian Church: Protestant in Beijing, including the Unregistered Church issues*

FINAL PAPER DUE: ? (on any of the four periods of Christian mission in China)