

IM590 The Chinese Worldview Today

M.Div. Course Syllabus

Denver Seminary

Organizing Professor: Dr. Richard S. Hess, Denver Seminary

Dr. Diane Obenchain, Dr. Tim Tseng, Martha Chan

June 3-20, 2010

People's University in Beijing and Xian Normal University in Xian, China

Approximate Cost - \$4,335 (includes 3 hours graduate credit from Denver Seminary)¹ plus airfare

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 3 hours, with approximately 45 contact hours per week

Course Description:

The course will offer an understanding of worldviews as found in modern China.

It will provide an overview of Chinese culture through lectures on the historical development of Daoist, Confucian, and Buddhist thought and practice along with some folk local traditions. One main question we shall explore is: how do these traditions of thinking and practice shape the worldview of Chinese people today? Another question we shall explore is: how does modernity, in all its dimensions, also shape the Chinese worldview today? Finally, the course will examine the development of Christian thought and practice in China and how Christian thought and practice interacts with the modern Chinese worldview today.

Denver Seminary Student Learning Outcomes. Denver Seminary is committed to students attaining learning outcomes. This course seeks to fulfill the following of Denver Seminary's student learning outcomes. Contextually Sensitive: Serve all people effectively and faithfully, with cultural discernment and without prejudice or favoritism. We will seek to better understand contextual distinctives of modern China and the people of that worldview and cultural context.

Assessments that help to realize this outcome:

1. Reflection papers on books on worldviews by Kearney and Hiebert will introduce students to the study of other worldviews and allow theme to assess this worldview.
2. An additional reflection paper on a book on Chinese culture and religion as well as a journal on readings about Chinese culture, religion, and history will be integrated with lectures and field trips in and around Beijing, China so as to provide an understanding of the worldview of China.

Instructors: North American:

Dr. Diane Obenchain, Calvin College

She received two Masters Degrees from Stanford University, one in Philosophy of Education and a second in East Asian Studies. She completed her Ph.D. in Comparative History of Religion at Harvard in 1984. She has taught in

¹ See appended page 10 for further details on cost.

Japan (1987-1988). 1988 at Peking University, she was the first western scholar to teach the academic study of religion in China, post 1949. From 1990-1993, as visiting professor at National University of Singapore, she taught East Asian philosophical traditions. From 1994-2002, she taught full-time at Peking University, Fudan University and Zhejiang University, helping to establish departments of Religious studies. She has been teaching in the Religion Department at Calvin since January 2005.

Rev. Dr. Russell Moy, Chairman of the board for Institute for the Study of Asian American Christianity. MDV, Calvin Seminary, Ph.D. Claremont School of Theology, served as faculty for GTU and Drew University.

Instructors: Chinese:

Dr. Haiming Wen is an associate professor of Chinese and comparative philosophy in School of Philosophy, Renmin (People) University of China. (RUC) He is also the director assistant of the International Center for Chinese and Comparative Philosophy, RUC. He has taught philosophy at Peking University, School of Chinese Classics, RUC. He is the editor-in-chief (with Roger Ames) of "International Studies on Chinese Philosophy" series for Peking University Press and the director for the Office of International Affairs, School of Philosophy, RUC. When he worked on his dissertation as an East-West Center (EWC) affiliate. He has published a book titled Confucian Pragmatism as the Art of Contextualizing Personal Experience and World by Lexington Books. His work, *Wisdom of Chinese Philosophy*, has been published in both Chinese and English.

Dr. Lesong Cheng is currently assistant professor of Religious Studies and Taoism in School of Philosophy, Renmin University of China. He received his Ph.D. from Hong Kong Chinese University.

Dr. Wei Shan is an assistant professor of Renmin University. He obtained Ph.D. degree from University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka in 2005. Now he is also a Vice-Director of Yunmen Buddhist College, Guangdong Province, Supervisor of Ling-Shan Academy of WuXi, Juangsu Province, Sanskrit lecturer in the Buddhist Academy of China, and a permanent member of the Sri Lanka Association for Buddhist Studies, Sri Lanka. He has published a number of Critical articles both in Chinese and English journals in China and abroad. His research focuses mainly on the areas of Sarvāstivāda abhidharma philosophy, Sanskrit, Pali and Theravāda Buddhism.

Dr, Sun Yi is currently associate professor of Religious Studies teaching Christianity in School of Philosophy, Renmin University of China. He received his PhD. in Christian Studies from Peking University. was a visiting scholar at Regent College, Vancouver, BC Canada and Calvin College Grand Rapids, MI. He had publications of Bible Survey in Chinese.

Dr. Liu Sumin is currently associate professor of Philosophy in Chinese Academy of Social Science, Beijing, China. She received her Ph.D. from Wuhan University. Her dissertation was in Tomas Aquinas and had published translations of Aquinas major works.

Goal

This course will encourage “Thinking Globally” and “Communicating Cross-Culturally” with an emphasis upon understanding world views. Such thinking involves cultivating the ability to analyze and understand issues and challenges from more than one world view. In addition, global thinking involves cultivating interest for cross-cultural interaction across time. Indeed, this course assumes that within China there has been considerable interaction among Chinese peoples, teachings, and practices. Those who can think globally and cross-culturally will be well-informed agents of social renewal and justice in the world.* While this course will take place in China, it will be taught partially by Chinese professors in English. Through site visits, interactions with people in the City of Beijing, and a trip to Xian, students will have opportunity to interact and converse with people of diverse cultures. In sum, students in this course will learn about and cultivate a multi-cultured perspective that will enable them to work effectively in a variety of Chinese worlds today – in China, the Chinese Diaspora, and North America.

Objectives

Students who take this course will:

1. Be able to discuss in an informed manner the multiply religious and philosophical worldviews of people who live in China.
2. Be able to discuss in an informed manner the multiply religious and philosophical worldviews of people who live in the Chinese Diaspora.
3. Be able to discuss in an informed manner the different ways in which Christian faith interacts with Chinese religious and philosophical worldviews.
4. Understand the background and development of worldviews in different cultures and specifically in the Chinese context.

Classroom Policies

1. Attendance and tardiness policies

- Students are required to attend each class session and site visit.
- Unexcused absence from a session will result in a full deduction for that session.
- Excused absences from a session will result in a .5 deduction for that session.
- Tardiness will result in a .25 deduction for that session.
- Extra credit assignments can be used to make up for absences and *tardiness?*

2. Classroom atmosphere -

We expect the class participants to contribute to a climate of respectful collegiality. This means that frank and honest comments are encouraged. Transparent and substantive evaluative feedback is welcomed. The class will be conducted by both North American and Chinese faculty members. The Chinese professors will deliver lectures and the North American faculty member will conduct the discussion after the Chinese teacher's lecture.

Texts

The following texts were selected to provide a basic introduction to the history and culture of Chinese people. Three of the texts are standard scholarly works that cover a broad range of topics. These texts serve well as foundation for informed conversation about the Chinese in China proper and in the Chinese Diaspora. In addition, two texts are selected for a graduate level introduction to the study of worldviews.

- Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China* (Cambridge University Press, 1999) ISBN 9780521669917 - 352 pages \$35

- Julia Ching, *Chinese Religions*, (Orbis Books 1993) paper, ISBN-883448750 -273 pages \$18.72

- Jeaneane D. Fowler & Merv Fowler, *Chinese Religions: Beliefs and Practices*, (Sussex Academic Press, 2008) ISBN 9781845191726 - 320 pages \$27

- *The Analects of Confucius*. Trans. by Burton Watson. (Columbia University Press, 2007). Paper, 176 pages, ISBN: 978-0-231-14165-9 \$15.95

*- A short introduction to the church in China in the last 100 years and more, see

"Christian History and Biography," Spring 2008, issue 98. This discusses the entire history and present condition of the church in China. It is published by *Christianity Today*, phone orders call 1-800-806--7798.*

Michael Kearney, *World View* (Chandler & Sharp, 1984). ISBN-0883165503 - 244 pages.

Paul Hiebert, *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change* (Baker Academic, 2008). ISBN 9780801027055 - 367 pages.

The following are the optional reading:

Philip J. Ivanhoe, *Confucian Moral self Cultivation*, (Hackett Publishing Company, 2000) Paperback, 152 pages, ISBN: 0872205088 \$12.95

Yao Xianzhong, *Confucianism and Christianity: A comparative Study of Ren and Agape*, (Sussex Academic Press, 1997) Paperback: 252 pages ISBN-10: 1898723761, ISBN-13: 978-1898723769 \$24.95

Rob Gifford, *China Road : A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power*, Random House Trade Paperbacks; Reprint edition (June 3, 2008), 352 pages, ISBN-10: 0812975243 \$11.56

Philip P. Pan, *Out of Mao's Shadow : The Struggle for the Soul of a New China*, Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition (June 23, 2009), 368 pages, ISBN-10: 1416537066 \$10.88

John Pomfret, *Chinese Lessons.:Five Classmates and the Story of the New China*, Holt Paperbacks; 1st edition (July 24, 2007), 336 pages, ISBN- 0805086641 \$ 10.20

The above materials are to supplement these required reading assignments. These materials will normally be considered optional reading or sources for research projects and presentations. (See appendix)

Assessment

1. One reading journal that tracks students' reading of the three academic texts. This assignment is designed to help students "think through" their reading assignments throughout the course. The journal will be collected for initial review and turned in for final grading. The journal should provide (minimally) a one-page, single-space summary for each chapter of required readings and a 1 page, single-spaced reflection for each book. This counts for one quarter of the final grade
2. Reflection papers: 1) One reflection paper of 2 -3 pages for the Hiebert book; 2) One 2- page reflection paper for Taoism, one for Buddhism, one for Confucianism, and one for Marxism (making a total of 8-9 pages) based on Fowler's *Chinese Religions: Beliefs and Practices*; 3) One Reflection paper of 2-3 pages from Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. These should all be double-spaced and are due before the beginning of the trip. This counts for one half of the final grade.
3. Group reflection presentation on site visits. The presentation format should be a powerpoint slideshow of no more than 10 slides to be presented after the site visit.

The goal is to capture how a student has integrated his/her visits to sites with the reading of the texts and teachers' lectures. Identify 3-5 main points that have (a) helped shape or reshape one's understanding about the Chinese worldview and (b) provided practical suggestions for more effective cross-cultural communication. This counts for one quarter of the final grade.

Other matters:

- Written assignments via electronic mail in MS Word are accepted.
- Deadlines

Work received after the deadline will receive a half grade deduction for each day late.

- Makeup's, extra-credit

Extra credit assignments can make up for missed attendances and assignments turned in late. They can also add a half grade to your final grade depending on the assignment. Please speak to the faculty leaders to discuss circumstances.

- Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offence and is not allowed. Those who has violate this policy, the work will consider a will receive an F for the assignment and could fail the course.

Support Services

Extra support after the class time will be available to students. The North American faculty member will help the students who ask for assistance.

Transfer

Credit for this course will transfer to any other higher learning institute in North America, in accordance with the regulations of a student's home university, college, or seminary.

Personal and career counseling will be available for those who are considering long term study or teaching in China. ERRC will be available for making arrangements.*

Calendar

Thursday (June 3)	Arrive Beijing, check in campus housing, get rid of jetlag
Friday (June 4)	Orientation in Beijing (afternoon)
Saturday (June 5)	Orientation and tour campus (Morning)
Sunday (June 6)	International fellowship worship, rest,

Date	Topic/Reading Assignment
Monday June 7	Introduction to Ancient Chinese civilization & history Read <i>Cambridge Illustrated</i> , chap. 1 Read <i>Chinese Religions</i> , Part I chap 1-2 ● Field Trip: Forbidden City

Tuesday, June 8	Philosophical foundations of Chinese culture Read <i>Cambridge Illustrated</i> , chap. 2 Read <i>Chinese Religions</i> Part I, chap 5 & 6 (Taoism) ● Field Trip: Temple of Heaven
Wednesday, June 9	Confucianism & Kunze, Mengze & Xuanze Read <i>Cambridge Illustrated</i> , chap. 3 Read <i>Chinese Religions</i> Part I chap 3 & 4 (Confucianism) ● Field Trip: Confucian Temple and school in Beijing
Thursday, June 10	Neo Confucianism & May 4 th movement Read <i>Cambridge Illustrated</i> , chap. 4 Read <i>Chinese Religions</i> Part II, chap 9 (Neo-Confucianism) ● Field Trip: Visit Lu Xun's home
Friday, June 11	Buddhism history, indigenous process Read <i>Cambridge Illustrated</i> , chap. 5 Read <i>Chinese Religions</i> Part II, chap.7 & 8 (Buddhism) ● Field Trip: Visit Buddhist temple
Saturday, June 12	Chinese Buddhism Art & Society Read <i>Cambridge Illustrated</i> , chap. 6, 7 & 8 ● Field Trip: Movie - A journey to the West.
Monday June 14	Folk Religions in China Read <i>Cambridge Illustrated</i> , chap. 9 Read <i>Chinese Religions</i> Part II, chap.12 ● Field Trip: Visit a folk religion site in Tianjin.
Tuesday June 15	China under the Communist Revolution, Marxism & modern thoughts Read <i>Cambridge Illustrated</i> , chap. 10 Read <i>Chinese Religions</i> Part II, chap.13 ● Field Trip: Visit Tiananmen & watch Chinese opera
Wednesday June 16	Development of Christianity in China Read <i>Cambridge Illustrated</i> , chap. 11 Read <i>Chinese Religions</i> Part III, chap.11 & Christianity development handouts ● Field Trip: Visit Haidian church and meet with the pastor
Thursday, June 17	Discuss Chinese worldview uniqueness, difference of Chinese philosophies and religions Group presentations preparation ● Field Trip: Visit Peking U. & Tsinghua U. campus
Friday June 18	Group Presentations in the morning Read <i>Chinese Religions</i> Part II chap 10 ● Field Trip: Take overnight train to Xian
Saturday June 19	History of Christianity & Islam and Judaism in China ● Field Trip: visit the Islam temple and seminary, Nestorian pagoda, Jewish community Take overnight train back to Beijing

Sunday June 20	Fly back to the US

Recommended reading and resources by Dr. Tim Tseng

- Bays, Daniel, ed. *Christianity in China: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1996.
- Berling, Judith. *A Pilgrim in Chinese Culture*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997.
- Chan, Wing-tsit, *A Sourcebook of Chinese Philosophy*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1963)
- Chan, Wing-tsit, trans. *Instructions for Practical Living and Other Neo-Confucian Writings by Wang Yang-ming*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1963.
- Cheng, Pei-kai, et. al. *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*. Norton, 1999 ISBN 0393973727, 9780393973723 - 531 pages
- Dobbins, James C. *Jōdo Shinshū: Shin Buddhism in Medieval Japan*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2002.
- Eberhard, Wolfram. *A History of China*. Cosimo, Inc., 2005, ISBN 9781596055667
- Faure, Bernard. *The Power of Denial: Buddhism, Purity, Gender*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.
- Fung, Yu-lan,, *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*, Social Science Publisher, 2007.
- Granet, Marcel. *The Religion of the Chinese People* Harper & Row, 1977
- Moffett, Samuel Hugh. *History of Christianity in Asia (vol. 2): 1500 to 1900*. Orbis Press, 2005
- Ng, Fae Myenne *Steer Toward Rock* Hyperion, 2008. ISBN: 9780786860975 - 272pp \$23.95
- Overmyer, Daniel L. *Religions of China: The World as a Living System*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1986
- Sommer, Deborah. *Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources* New York: Oxford University Press, 1995
- Spence, Jonathan D. *The Search for Modern China* 2 ed., illustrated, revised, W.W. Norton, 1999 - ISBN 0393973514, 9780393973518 - 728 pages
- Tu, Weiming. *Confucian Thought: Selfhood As Creative Transformation*. New York: State University of New York Press, 1985.

Internet Bibliographies

- Asian Documents (UCLA Center for East Asian Studies)
<http://www.international.ucla.edu/eas/documents/doc-index.htm>
- Asian Educational Media Services (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
<http://www.aems.uiuc.edu/>
- Asian Studies Virtual Library
<http://vlib.org/AsianStudies>
- Buddhist Studies WWW Virtual Library
<http://www.ciolek.com/WWWVLBuddhism.html>

- Chinese Cultural Studies: Original Source Texts (Brooklyn College)
<http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/core9/phalsall/texts.html>
- Chinese Philosophical Etext in Chinese (Wesleyan University)
<http://sangle.web.wesleyan.edu/etext/index.html>
- Chinese Popular Religion – Bibliography
http://web.missouri.edu/~clartp/bibliography_CPR.html
- Documentary Educational Resources To the Land of Bliss
<http://www.der.org/films/to-the-land-of-bliss.html>
- Expanding East Asian Studies (Columbia University)
<http://www.exeas.org/>
- Internet East Asian History Sourcebook (Fordham University)
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/eastasia/eastasiasbook.html>
- Religious Culture in 20th Century China – Bibliography
<http://website.leidenuniv.nl/~haarbjter/chinPRCbib.html>
- Taoism Virtual Library
<http://www.vl-site.org/taoism/index.html>
- Visual Sourcebook of Chinese Civilization (University of Washington)
<http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/index>

Costs

The cost assumes approximately \$3,000 for the part of the course that takes place in China (and the orientation at San Francisco airport) plus \$1335 for three hours of graduate level credit at Denver Seminary plus \$175 administrative fee and honorarium. This may vary depending on circumstances. Note the following policy that applies to this course: Because these are Denver Seminary courses that offer uniquely valuable experiences to students (including international engagement and intensive group experience), Denver Seminary wants to encourage these “value-added” opportunities.

Denver Seminary students participating in such courses incur the expenses of both Denver Seminary tuition and travel-related expenses. To facilitate these Denver Seminary initiatives and encourage student participation, Denver Seminary will subsidize 50% of the tuition cost of any Denver Seminary student who enrolls in the travel course for full academic credit.

Participants who are students registering for credit but are actually students of another institution will receive no tuition subsidy and will pay the travel costs without the addition of the \$100 administrative fee or \$75 professor’s honorarium fee.

Participants who do not register for Denver Seminary credit will pay the travel costs plus the \$100 administrative fee and the \$75 professor honorarium fee as with Type 1 Courses.

For any questions and details concerning registration, please contact the organizing professor.

Insurance and Liability Waiver

All participants in any international course travel will carry international travel insurance. The travel insurance will be provided through a Denver Seminary insurance vendor. The cost of the insurance will be included in the total cost of the trip. Additionally, each participant will provide Denver Seminary with a liability waiver.

Students will be sent details regarding this at registration.