CS 4501 Study Abroad Seminar: China
Spring 2012

Patrick S. Cheng
Sherrill 241
pcheng@eds.edu
617-682-1538

Kwok Pui Lan
Sherrill 361
pkwok@eds.edu
617-682-1533

Pre-Trip Sessions, Spring 2012: Feb 2, Feb 23, Mar 22, Apr 19, 6.30-8.30 p.m.
Study tour: May 18-June 2, 2012

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
The focus of this travel seminar is to learn about the culture and religions of China, explore the life and witness of the Chinese churches in a rapidly changing society, and study the legacy of the Episcopal mission in China.

Reading, writing, watching videos, and participation in pre-trip sessions will be required as part of the orientation process during the spring semester. Participants will engage in analytical and spiritual reflection before, during and after the trip, which will lead to a final project.

Participants must be able to: (1) participate as a member of a collaborative team; (2) engage with cultural, economic, and social difference on personal, interpersonal, and systemic levels; (3) exercise skills in theological, cultural and social analysis; and (4) be flexible in facing the unexpected. Course fee is USD1,000 to be paid before the trip.

II. COURSE GOALS
Explore the nature of Christian faith and life and witness of the Chinese churches as Christians address poverty, gender and sexuality issues, globalization, state and religion, and the changing roles of China in the world.

• Understand and experience the phenomenal church growth in a socialist country.
• Learn about how the churches interact with other religions in a religiously pluralistic society.
• Explore the complexities of the unique intersection of race, class, gender, and history in China as we meet and learn from and interact with people.
• Develop cultural sensitivity through working with the seminar group and meeting people in China.
• Lay the groundwork for personal praxis in a new multipolar world.
Anti-racism Commitment
This course shares Episcopal Divinity School’s commitment to anti-racism and multiculturalism. It is impossible to understand the dynamics of life in present-day China without recognizing China’s relations with the outside world, and especially with the USA. The course recognizes that China is undergoing rapid economic, social, and political changes, and encourages students to understand the reality underlying these changes among the people and institutions they will encounter during the trip.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend and participate in pre-trip sessions.
2. Complete assigned readings and post reflections on the course home page prior to each session. Guidelines for postings will be given.
3. A final integrative paper or project to be completed after the trip. Guidelines will be given. Due date: August 2, 2012.

Pass/Fail Option
The Pass/Fail grading system is now:
- Pass (B or better)
- Marginal Pass (B-)
- Fail (lower than B-)

D. Min Students
Course work for all Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students must demonstrate an advanced understanding of the nature and purposes of ministry, enhanced competencies in pastoral analysis and ministerial skills, and the integration of these dimensions into the theologically reflective practice of ministry. D.Min. students are encouraged to focus their course work on a particular subject germane to their anticipated thesis project.

IV. REQUIRED BOOKS


Other articles in the course home page in PowerCampus.
V. COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

February 2  Session One
- Introduction to the Study Abroad Seminar: Norms and expectations
- Cross-cultural understanding
- China, the USA, and the world

Readings:


Recommended:


February 23  Session Two
- Multireligious understanding
- Religious life in contemporary China
- Chinese religion in global context

Readings:

Palmer, Shive, and Wickeri, Chinese Religious Life, ch. 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13.

Videos: To be announced.

March 22  Session Three
- Development of the Protestant church in China
• Christian church in a communist society
• Rapid church growth
• Women’s leadership and participation

Readings:


**April 19  Session Four**

• Chinese theology in the making
• Cultural Christians in China
• Preparation and trip logistics

Readings:


Ruokanen and Huang, eds. *Christianity and Chinese Culture*, 3, 7, 13, 15, 16, 19.

**China trip: May 18 to June 2, 2012**

**VI. RECOMMENDED BOOKS**

**Chinese History and Background**


**Christianity in China**


Richmond, Annette B. *The American Episcopal Church in China*. New York: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA, 1907.


**Chinese Theological Review (online)**

China Websites

http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/history/

http://acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~phalsall/images.html