

Nazarene Theological Seminary
MSS 790 The Church in Asia
Spring Semester 2008
Syllabus

(Please note: This syllabus is *tentative*. A working syllabus will be presented at the first class session of the course.)

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I. Course Description/Narrative

The Church in Asia introduces the student to the geographical and political area known as Asia and studies the Christian Church in the various countries of Asia including the People's Republic of China (Mainland), the Republic of China (Taiwan), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), The Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, and other countries in Asia and Southeast Asia according to resources of the class and interest of students. Some thought will be given to historical development of the area, the culture of the various countries and peoples, as well as the various religions and belief systems represented. The emphasis of the course will be on the introduction of Christianity and the development of the Church.

II. Course Objectives

This course is intended to

1. Introduce the student to a general understanding of the secular history of Asia, with an emphasis on China.
2. Introduce the student to a general understanding of the philosophical and religious bases of Asia.
3. Introduce the student to the work of missions in Asia, with an emphasis on the work of the Church of the Nazarene.
4. Help the student develop a greater understanding of the Christian Church in at least two countries.
5. Challenge the student to pray for the church in Asia and consider the student's own role in the work of the gospel in Asia.

III. Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will

1. be able to articulate a general understanding of the secular history of Asia, with an emphasis on China.
2. have an introductory understanding of the philosophical and religious bases of Asia.
3. have been introduced, and be able to articulate, the work of missions in Asia, with an emphasis on the work of the Church of the Nazarene.
4. have developed a greater understanding of the Christian Church in at least two countries.
5. have been challenged to pray for the church in Asia and be able to articulate his/her own role in the work of the gospel in Asia.

IV. Resources

Texts:

Aikman, David, 2003. *Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity Is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power*. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing Co. ISBN 0-89526-128-6
Cunningham, Floyd T., *Holiness Abroad: Nazarene Missions in Asia*. Lanham, Maryland and Oxford: Scarecrow Press, 2003.

Supplemental reading:

- Covell, Ralph R., *Confucius, The Buddha, and Christ: a History of the Gospel in Chinese*. Eugene, Oregon USA: Wipf and Stock, 1986.
- Miyamoto, Ken Christoph, *God's Mission in Asia: a Comparative and Contextual Study of This-Worldly Holiness and the Theology of Missio Dei in M.M. Thomas and C.S. Song*. Eugene, Oregon USA: Pickwick Publications (Wipf and Stock), 2007.
- Moffett, Samuel Hugh, *A History of Christianity in Asia*. Volume I: Beginnings to 1500. 2nd and rev. ed. Maryknoll, NY USA: Orbis Books, 1998.
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- A History of Christianity in Asia*. Vol. II 1500-1900. Maryknoll NY USA: Orbis Books, 2005.

The lecturer will draw upon various resources to prepare and present lectures. The student is directed to the bibliography of materials on Asia in the NTS library.

V. Course Requirements

1. Participation. Attend the class sessions and participate in discussion.
2. Student report. Each student is to select two countries of Asia and present a report of the church in each of those countries. This report should include a brief history of the country and indicate the general religious situation of the country, including the situation of the Christian church, and particularly the work of the Church of the Nazarene (or other denomination according to the student's background and membership). The reports will be given in class according to the schedule determined early in the semester.

The church in: Bangladesh

China

People's Republic of China (Mainland)

Republic of China (Taiwan)

Hong Kong SAR

Mongolia Autonomous Region

Tibet

Indonesia

India

Indonesia

Japan

Kampuchea (Cambodia)

Laos

Singapore/Malaysia

Myanmar (Burma)

Okinawa

Pakistan

Republic of the Philippines

Singapore

South Korea

Thailand

The report should cover the following areas.

- A brief history of the country
- The general religious history of the country
- The predominant religious belief systems
- The history of the Church of the Nazarene in the country
- The Christian presence in the country
- The work of missionaries and indigenous workers of the country, including when this country first heard of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Issues, problems, and opportunities for current and future ministries.

The report is to be given in class according to the course schedule. Students are encouraged to utilize audio-visual aids such as maps, PowerPoint, video, etc.

- Each student is to prepare a report of 2500 words on a significant topic of interest and relevance associated with Asia. The topic may be selected from the list below or determined in consultation with the lecturer. The paper is to be double spaced, properly documented, and follow Turabian as a formatting guide. If a person is chosen as a subject of the report, the motivation and passion of the person should be explored as well as his/her specific ministry. If a topic is chosen, the paper should be seen an opportunity for the student to reflect critically on the topic chosen as well as to formulate a personal perspective and response.

People and missions:

China Inland Mission/OMF

William A. Eckel

John H. Holstead

Hiroshi Kitagawa

Robert Morrison

Watchman Nee

John Nevius

Donald D. Owens

Jesuits

Robert de Nobili

Matteo Ricci

John Pattee

George E. Rench

Sadu Sundar Singh

Mary Scott

J. Hudson Taylor

Issues:

Communism in Asia (and its impact on the church)

The Rites Controversy (ancestor respect/worship)

The Eastern Christian Church (Nestorian) in China

The Roman Catholic Church in Asia

The Society of Jesus in Asia

The Dominicans in Asia

The Franciscans in Asia

The Three-Self Patriotic Church (China)

How should Christianity relate to other religions in Asia?

Tentmaking missions in Asia

The growth of Christianity in Korea

The Cultural Revolution in China and its effects on the Christian church (Protestant and Roman Catholic)

The Church in Hong Kong after 1997

A Christian perspective on Buddhism

A Christian perspective on Confucianism

A Christian perspective on Hinduism

A Christian perspective on Islam

A Christian perspective on Shinto

A Christian perspective on Taoism

- A final exam will be given according to the Seminary exam schedule. A study guide will be given to students prior to the exam.

- Attendance at the Association of Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers conference in Kansas City March 27-28. Each student is strongly urged to attend the reading of at least one paper and its discussion (if applicable). Points will be given for a response paper of 2-3 pages.

5. Due dates

Please do not submit hard copies of your papers but submit all assignments through Blackboard, under *Assignments* in the *Course Content* section.

If you are unable to complete the course work in the time indicated a request for an incomplete must be submitted to the Registrar by April 16. An *In-Progress (IP)* is not available for this course.

6. Grading

The grade for the course will be determined as follows

1. Class participation	10%
2. Student reports	40
3. Topic paper	30
4. Final Exam	<u>20</u>
	100%

The course grade will be determined according to the following scale:

100-91 – A
90-81 – B
80-71 – C
70-61 – D

7. Plagiarism.

Be sure to read and understand the content and implications of the Plagiarism statement in the NTS Student Handbook. All assignments in this course are made with the expectation that the work you submit is your own work. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in a failing grade for the course.

Give careful attention to the use of Internet sources. While the Internet provides easy access to a wealth of resources, as with all other resources, Internet resources must be carefully selected and properly cited and referenced.

8. Bibliography