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MW 726 Religions of China

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ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Spring 2005

MW726 Religions of China

Meeting Time: Tuesday 2:30 **Meeting Room:**
Instructor: Terry C. Muck **Office:** MC314
Phone: 859-858-2145 (o) 502-893-2868 (h)
E-Mail: terry_muck@asburyseminary.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday afternoon, 2:00 – 4:30; before and after class;
e-mail; special appointment.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this graduate seminar, students read primary sources in the religions of China. Focus will be placed on the major world religions of Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism, but in order to understand them in their context we will also study indigenous Chinese religions. Special attention will be given to the dynamics among the three great religions of China and the folk expressions of religion. The course will take the form of a case history of how to do a religious audit of a specific national, regional, or local context.

II. COURSE GOALS

- A. Students will articulate the core teachings of Chinese religions, describing them in ways agreeable to representative adherents of those religious traditions;
- B. Students will develop tools of analysis enabling them to research the history, beliefs, and practices of religious traditions;
- C. Students will create missiological approaches to people of Chinese religious background
- D. Students will gain skills in doing a religious audit of a specific national, regional, or local context.

II. TEXTBOOKS

- De Bary, William Theodore, and Irene Bloom, eds. Sources of Chinese Tradition. Vol I. Second Edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999. 944 pages.
- DeBary, William Theodore, and Richard Lufrano, eds. Sources of Chinese Tradition. Vol. II. Second Edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. 636 pages.
- Yang, C. K. Religion in Chinese Society. Illinois: Waveland Press, 1961. 473 pages.
- Bond, Michael Harris. Beyond the Chinese Face: Insights From Psychology. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. 125 pages.

III. ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Read assigned texts.
- 2. Write a five-page discussion paper on each reading assignment
- 3. Lead two one-hour discussion sessions during the semester on readings.
- 4. Write a 20 page research paper on a topic worked out with the instructor.

IV. MEETINGS

February 8

February 15 Reading: DeBary I:1-223

February 22 Reading: Bond 1-125

March 1 Reading: DeBary I:225-536

March 8 Reading: Yang 1-179

March 15 Reading: Yang 180-404

March 22 Spring Break

March 29 Reading: DeBary I:537-754

April 5, 12 Independent Study

April 19 Reading: DeBary I:755-924

April 26 Reading: DeBary II:1-230

May 3 Reading: DeBary II:231-482

May 10 Reading: DeBary II:483-584