

RELIGION IN CHINESE SOCIETY
Syllabus

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce students to the sociological study of religion in traditional Chinese society and the late modern world. The purpose of this course is to explain differing perspectives in understanding the significant role of Chinese religion in both the traditional and contemporary world. Discussion will focus on the similarities and contrasts in the dynamics of modernization as experienced in China and in the West, especially those spiritual convictions that lie at the heart of the Chinese heritage of popular belief and practice.

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Prof. Na Chen nchen@fudan.edu.cn

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English, with introduction of relevant Chinese terms

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Students are expected to read all the listed materials and to be prepared for the discussions during the weekly meetings.

Each student must choose a subject from one of the topics of the course as his/her research topic and peer up to make a group presentation in the class. Based on your observation of Shanghai religious spots, one should write a term paper (1,000 words); one reading reports (each 1,000 words); Final research essay (2,000-words).

The course grading will be based on four parts:

1) class attendance, engagement and presentation 20%, 2) reading report (20%), 3) and term papers 20%, and 4) final research essay 40%. 4) adjustment will be made accordingly

Week 1

Introduction: Introduction to Religion in Chinese Society

Yang, C .K., Introduction, *Religion in Chinese Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1962.

Vincent Goossaert, The organization of Religious Communities in the Twentieth Century, in *Chinese Religious Life*, eds. David A. Palmer, Glenn Shive, and Philip L. Wickeri. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, p. 172-190.

Overmyer, Daniel, Chapter 4, *Religions of China, the World as a Living System*, HarperSanFrancisco, 1986.

Week 2

Confucianism and Humanistic Religion

C. K. Yang, Confucian Thought and Chinese Religion, *Chinese Thought and Institutions: Exploring Twenty Five centuries of Chinese Ideas in Action*, edited by John K. Fairbank. Benjamin Schwartz, *The World of Thought in Ancient China*, Harvard University Press 1989, p. 56-134.

Lai Chen, Historical and Cultural Features of Confucianism in East Asia, *Confucianisms for a Changing World Cultural Order*, ed. Roger Ames, Peter Hershock, University of Hawaii Press 2018. Weiming Tu and Daisaku Ikeda, *New Horizons in Eastern Humanism*, I. B. Tauris 2011, p. 86-113.

Week 3

Buddhism Became Chinese

Daniel Overmyer, Chapter 2, *Religions of China, the World as a Living System*, Harper San Francisco, 1986.

Raoul Birnbaum, "Buddhism China at the Century's Turn", *Religion in China Today*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Gareth Fisher, "Religion as Repertoire: Resourcing the Past in a Beijing Buddhist Temple", *Modern China*, 38(3) 346-376, 2012 SAGE Publication.

Recommend reading: Wu Cheng'en, *Journey to the West* 西游记, translated by Anthony Yu.

Animate Movie: *Monkey King: Hero is Back*

<http://my.tv.sohu.com/us/214213224/82294580.shtml>

Week 4

Observation of religious spots in Shanghai

Liz Hingley, Benoit Vermander and Liang Zhang, Relocating Sacredness in Shanghai, *Social Compass* (SAGE 2015), 1-19, sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav

Week 5

Taoism as salvation religion

Chitim LAI, "Daoism in China Today, 1980 – 2002", *Religion in China Today*. Cambridge University Press 2003.

Daniel Overmyer, Chapter 2, *Religions of China, the World as a Living System*, HarperSanFrancisco, 1986.

David Palmer, "The body: Health, Nation, and Transcendence", in *Chinese Religious Life*, eds. David A. Palmer, Glenn Shive, and Philip L. Wickeri. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, p. 87-106.

Week 6

Christianity and Chinese Society

Richard Madsen "Catholic Revival During the Reform Era", *Religion in China Today*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Daniel H. Bays "Chinese Protestant Christianity Today", *Religion in China Today*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Yanfei Sun, "The Rise of Protestantism in Post-Mao China: State and Religion in Historical Perspective", *American Journal of Sociology*, V. 122, No. 6 (May 2017): 1664-1725.

Week 7

Movie: The Century of Revolution

Some Background Introduction of Cultural Revolution and Maoist Cult

Benjamin I. Schwartz, *Communism and China: Ideology in Flux*, Oxford University Press, London, 1968.

Fairbank and Goldman, *China: A New History*, Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press 2001, p. 383- 405

Jiping Zuo, Political Religion: The Case of the Cultural Revolution in China, *Sociological Analysis*, 1991, 52:1, 99-110.

Week 8

Religion in China Today: Social Change and the Evolution of Religious Policy

Adam Yuet Chau, *Miraculous Response – Doing Popular Religion in Contemporary China*, CA: Stanford University Press 2006, pp. 111- 239.

Fan Lizhu and Chen Na, "The Revival and Development of Popular Religion in China 1980-Present", *Modern Chinese Religion II 1850 – 2015*, V. 2, edited by Vincent Goossaert, Jan Kiely and John Lagerwey, Brill 2015, p. 923-949.

Yang Fenggang, The Red, Black, and Gray Markets of Religion in China, *The Sociological Quarterly* 47 (2006) 93–122 © 2006 Midwest Sociological Society.

Week 9

Movie Guasha (Treatment)

Week 10

Revival of Traditional Religion: China's Religious Heritage as Moral Capital

Fan, Lizhu, James D. Whitehead, and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead. "Fate and Fortune: Popular Religion and Moral Capital in Shenzhen," *Journal of Chinese Religions*, 32 (2004): 83-100.

_____, Evelyn Eaton Whitehead, and James D. Whitehead. "Adopting and Adapting China's Common Religious Heritage," *Nova Religio* 9.2 (2005):50-61.

Tu, Weiming, The Quest for Meaning: Religion in the People's Republic China, In *The Deceularization of the World---- Resurgent Religion and World Politics*, Edited by Peter Berger, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing 1999.

Week 11

The Shadow of Ancestry: Family Value and Ancestry Reverence in Wenzhou

Yang, C .K., Chapter 4, *Religion in Chinese Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1962.

Michael Szonyi, "Lineages and the Making of Contemporary China", *Modern Chinese Religion II 1850 – 2015*, V. 1, edited by Vincent Goossaert, Jan Kiely and John Lagerwey, Brill 2015, p. 433-491.

Lizhu Fan, Na Chen, and Richard Madsen, The Recovery of Cultural Heritage: Ethnographic Research on Lineage Traditions in Southern Wenzhou, In *Religion and Social Life in Greater Jiangnan*, edited by Robert Weller and Lizhu Fan, Shanghai: Shanghai People Press 2015.

Week 12

The Birth of a Religion: The Emergence of the Confucian Congregation

CHEN Na and FAN Lizhu, "Confucianism as an 'Organized Religion' – An Ethnographic Study of the Confucian Congregation," in *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, vol. 21, no. 1 [August 2017], 5-30. Chen, Na, "Why Is Confucianism Not a Religion? The Impact of Orientalism," in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, vol. 51, no. 1 [March 2016], 21-42.

Week 13

Religion and Rural-Urban migration --- Pursuing Social Integration

Wang Feng, Xuejin Zuo and Danching Ruan, "Rural Migrants in Shanghai: Living under the Shadow of Socialism", *International Migration Review*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (Summer, 2002), pp. 520-545. <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

Xiaochu Hu, "China's Young Rural-to-Urban Migrants: In Search of Fortune, Happiness, and Independence", <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/chinas-young-rural-urban-migrants-search-fortune-happiness-and-independence>

Week 14

New Trend of Chinese religion

Tu Weiming, *The Ecological Turn in New Confucian Humanism: Implications for China and the World*. http://www.tc.columbia.edu/centers/coce/pdf_files/s8.pdf

Sebastien Billioud, "Carrying the Confucian Torch to the Masses: The Challenge of Structuring the Confucian Revival in the People's Republic of China." *Orien Extremus* 49 (2010)

Andre Laliberte, David Palmer and Keping Wu, *Religious Philanthropy and Chinese Civil Society*, in *Chinese Religious Life*, eds. David A. Palmer, Glenn Shive, and Philip L. Wickeri. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, p. 191-208.

The course outline is subject to change when necessary with due notice given to the students.

Final essay, on relevant issues related with "The future of religion in China in the global era", information based on selected readings and your observations from temple and church visits, or your own interviews with Chinese interviewees.

Instructor:

FAN Lizhu 范丽珠 is Professor of Sociology at Fudan University. As a pioneer scholar on the study of sociologist of religion in China, she has engaged in historical and ethnographic studies of Chinese folk religious beliefs, sociological theories of religion, and the study of the trends of folk religious beliefs in modern Chinese society. As an international recognized scholar, she taught at many distinguished universities, such as University of Chicago, University of California at San Diego, Lund University, Queen's University, New School, Wabash College, University of British Columbia, Bergen University, University of Stockholm, University of Tokyo, etc.

Teaching and research areas: Sociology of Religion, Religion in Chinese Society, New Religious Movement in China Today.