RELS394 Religion and Politics in Contemporary China
Winter 2016, Thursday 6:30-9:30pm, Dunning 10

Instructors
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Description
This seminar course examines Chinese and foreign religions in mainland China from 1949 to the present day. Topics include the status of established religions, the political control of new religious movements and the resurgence of traditional Chinese religions and ideologies.

Objectives
• Gain factual historical information on religion and politics in mainland China
• Develop theoretical understanding of intersection between religion, modernity, secularization and politics in the Chinese context
• Gain training in humanities and social science research using electronic databases and other library resources
• Gain practice in making seminar presentations and writing research papers

Assessment
The final mark will be assigned by the instructors based on the following elements:
• Participation (20%)
  Attendance will be taken at every class, and each student’s contribution to the seminar discussion will be assessed on an ongoing basis. An interim mark will be given after reading week.
• Pre-seminar Tutorial (10%)
  Those presenting on Thursday evenings must attend a tutorial the preceding Wednesday afternoon at 5:30pm where they summarize their understanding of the reading and work together with the instructors to plan a successful class discussion. The mark will be based on how well you can demonstrate that you understand the reading and are prepared to lead the class the next day.
• Seminar paper (20%)
  The seminar paper should comprise a 750 word objective summary of one of the required readings, and three to five discussion questions. Print copies of the paper / handout for all the members of the seminar. You are responsible for leading the seminar for 50 minutes. You should first present your objective summary and then engage the seminar in discussing your questions. Be creative in your approach to generating a good discussion. Maybe you can show a video or create an activity that engages everyone’s attention. The grade will be based equally on the quality of your objective summary and on your ability to generate a substantive discussion about the readings that engages all the members of the seminar.
• Final paper (50%)
  The final paper is written in three stages, each with its own grade.
• By February 25, submit a one page single spaced essay proposal (10%) that includes a title, a description of the topic or question to be investigated, and a discussion of the significance of the topic. Attach an annotated bibliography of at least eight sources following the guide for annotated bibliographies available at http://sass.queensu.ca/writingcentre/tipsheets/
• By March 31, submit a detailed outline of your essay with subheadings and description of what each section will include (10%)
• By April 14, submit the finished essay, max 5,000 words (30%).

Textbooks

RQ *The Religious Question in Modern China*, by Vincent Goossaert and David A. Palmer (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010). This book charts the history of religion from the late 19th century to the present day, with a focus on the interaction of religion and state politics. It can be bought from the campus bookstore, or downloaded on Kindle. It can also be rented for 30 days from the publisher’s website.

CRL *Chinese Religious Life*, edited by David A. Palmer, Glenn Shive and Philip L. Wickeri (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011). This book is a collection of essays analyzing ways of being religious in China today. It can be bought from the campus bookstore or read online through the Queen’s library. The Moodle site contains links to other required readings each week.

Schedule

Jan 7   Introduction of course, class and instructors
Jan 14   Religion and Modernity in Republican China
• RQ chs. 1-5
Jan 21   Religion after the Communist Revolution
• RQ chs. 6, 7 and 10
Jan 28   Urban and Rural China
• CRL chs. 1-2
Feb 4   Classifying Religions
• CRL chs. 3-4
Feb 11   Gender and the Body
• CRL chs. 5-6
Feb 25   Religion and Environment

*Essay proposal due via Moodle*
• CRL ch. 7

**Mar 3**  
**Religion and Civil Society**  
• CRL 8  

**Mar 10**  
**Religion, the State, and Market Reforms**  
• CRL 11-12  

**Mar 17**  
**Tibet**  

**Mar 24**  
**Xinjiang**  
• Buckley, Chris. 2015. “China Responds to Paris Attacks Through a Domestic Lens.” [http://nyti.ms/1PKe7DP](http://nyti.ms/1PKe7DP)  
• Hernandez, Javier C. 2015. “Q. and A.: Christina Lin on China's Antiterrorism Efforts” [http://nyti.ms/1Ns46MS](http://nyti.ms/1Ns46MS)

**Mar 31**  
**Review and Evaluations**  
*Outline of essay due*
Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas” essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1), on the Arts and Science website (see http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/sites/default/files/Academic_Regulations.pdf), and from the instructor of this course.

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen’s. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Accommodations

If you have a physical, psychological, or learning disability and might require accommodations in this course, please contact immediately Queen's Health Counseling and Disability Services (HCDS), located in the LaSalle Building, 146 Stuart Street (613-533-6467), in order to receive documentation identifying needs requiring accommodation by the instructor (http://www.queensu.ca/hcds)

Changes

The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of the course and will give notice of any such changes.

Citations

All assignments must use the Chicago Manual of Style Author-Date system. See http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html and click on the “Author-Date” tab.

Copyright

This syllabus and the material on the accompanying Moodle site are copyrighted and are for the sole use of students registered in RESL394. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in RELS394. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and
may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

It is important that we maintain an atmosphere of respect and focus on learning in the classroom. Since the use of electronic devices in the classroom can be disruptive both to the instructor and to other students, the use of these devices may be restricted at the discretion of the instructor. The use of laptops is permitted, but their use is restricted to taking notes and following up course material at the behest of the instructor. The use of recording devices for lectures is not allowed unless you have requested and been given the express permission of the instructor. Non-course related use of electronic devices (e.g. playing games, watching movies, social networking, texting), including smartphones, tablets and laptops, is particularly disruptive to others in the classroom; if you feel you must use class time for these pursuits please do so outside of the classroom itself. If you are engaged in such pursuits you may be asked by the instructor or by other students to cease doing so or otherwise leave the classroom. Please refrain making or receiving telephone calls during class.

Extensions

Extensions to seminar assignments are not permitted as these serve as the basis for class discussions. Extensions to the final assignment are not permitted as there is a very short marking window before grades must be submitted. Students wishing to negotiate a course grade of “Incomplete” (IN) must bring the “Permission for an Incomplete Grade” form (http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/sites/default/files/permission_for_an_incomplete_grade.pdf) to the instructor before the end of classes and must provide documentary evidence to support the request. Failure to do so will result in the submission of a final grade based on work completed by the end of the course.

Grades

All assignment marks are communicated to students as numerical grades, and those numbers are used to calculate final course averages. Translation of final averages into letter grades, using the Queen’s Official Grade Conversion Scale, happens at the end of the course.