

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS
University of Virginia, Academic Sponsor

Voyage: Spring 2016
Discipline: Religion
RELC 1559-101: Christianity
Division: Lower
Faculty Name: Patrick T. McCormick
Credit Hours: 3; Contact Hours: 38

Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The academic study of global Christianity, the world's largest religion, is an important tool for understanding people and cultures around the world, for this world religion has shaped and been shaped by a wide array of ancient and modern customs and cultures. This course will examine and evaluate the complex history and diverse forms Christianity has taken as it spread around the world and influenced, adapted to, and often adopted the beliefs and practices of local communities. In particular, this course will explore and assess the mixed impact of Christianity's arrival on the peoples and cultures of Asia and Africa and the multiple forms and expressions Christianity has taken on in these continents.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate familiarity with the basic beliefs, practices, texts, and rituals of Christianity.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how Christianity has become the world's largest religion and spread to every corner of the globe.
- Be able to explain and compare the differing forms and expressions Christianity has taken in the Asian and African lands where it has spread.
- Be able to analyze the basic principles of ecumenical dialogue.
- Be able to demonstrate how Christianity has been viewed and critiqued as a resource for peace and justice

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Mary Jo Weaver and David Brakke
TITLE: Introduction to Christianity
PUBLISHER: Cengage Learning
ISBN# 978-0495097266
DATE/EDITION: 2008/4th

AUTHOR: Peter C. Phan
TITLE: Christianities in Asia
PUBLISHER: Wiley-Blackwell
ISBN #: 978-1405160902

DATE/EDITION: 2010

AUTHOR: Elizabeth Isichei,

TITLE: A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present

PUBLISHER: Wm. B. Eerdmans

ISBN #: 978-0802808431

DATE/EDITION: 1995

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada- January 5:

A1- January 7: Foundations of Christianity: Scripture and Jesus (Reading Quiz 1)

Mary Jo Weaver & David Brakke, "God as Revealed in the Bible," and "The Context for and Life of Jesus," pp. 1-35 of *Introduction to Christianity*.

A2-January 9: The History of Ancient and Medieval Christianities

Mary Jo Weaver & David Brakke, "The Emergence of the Christian Church," and "Orthodox Christianity and Roman Catholicism: From the Fourth to the Fourteenth Centuries," pp. 36-78 of *Introduction to Christianity*.

A3- January 11: The Reformations of Western Christianity (Reading Quiz 2)

Mary Jo Weaver & David Brakke, "Aspects of the Reformation," and "The Reformation Continues: Christianity in the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," pp. 79-118 of *Introduction to Christianity*.

Honolulu: January 12

A4-January 14: Christianity's Mixed Encounters Modernity & Globalization

Mary Jo Weaver & David Brakke, "Christianity and Modernity," "Modern American Christianity," and "Worldwide Christianity: Missions, Ecumenism, and Globalization," pp. 119-182 of *Introduction to Christianity*.

A5-January 17: Contemporary Christianities and Global Culture (Reading Quiz 3)

Mary Jo Weaver & David Brakke, "Christians and the World," "Christians and Their Culture," and "Contemporary Christianity," pp. 183-236 of *Introduction to Christianity*.

Study Day: January 19

A6- January 20: Christianity in Asia: A Complex History

Peter Phan, "Asian Christianity/Christianities," pp. 1-8 of *Christianities in Asia*.

A7-January 22: Christianity in Japan (Reading Quiz 4)

Mark Mullins, "Japan," pp. 197-216 of *Christianities in Asia*.

Yokohama: January 24-25

In-Transit: January 26

Kobe: January 27-28

A8- January 29: Christianity in China

Ying Fuk-tsang, "Mainland China," pp. 149-172 of *Christianities in Asia*.

Lo Lung-kwong, "Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao," pp. 173-196 of *Christianities in Asia*.

Shanghai: January 31-February 1(*January 31: Field Lab - Christian Cathedrals and Shrines of Shanghai*)

In-Transit: February 2-3

Hong Kong: 4-5

A9- February 6: Christianity in Vietnam (Reading Quiz 5)

Peter Phan, "Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand," pp. 129-148 of *Christianities in Asia*.

Ho Chi Minh City: February 8-12

A10- February 13: Christianity in Singapore

Edmund Kee-Fook Chia, "Malaysia and Singapore," pp. 77-96 of *Christianities in Asia*.

Study Day: February 15

A11-February 16: Christianity in Burma (Reading Quiz 6)

Elizabeth Koeppling, "India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma/Myanmar," pp. 9-44 of *Christianities in Asia*.

Yangon: February 18-22

A12-February 23: Christianity in India

Samuel Hugh Moffett, "First Missions to India," pp. 24-39 of *A History of Christianity in Asia: Beginnings to 1500*.

Samuel Hugh Moffett, "India (1500-1700): St. Thomas or St. Peter?" pp. 3-35 of *A History of Christianity in Asia: 1500-1900*.

A13- February 25: Christianity in Asia: A Reflection (Reading Quiz 7)

Peter Phan, "Whither Asian Christianities?" pp. 255-262 of *Christianities in Asia*.

Cochin: February 27-March 3

A14-March 4: Christianity in Africa: The Early & Medieval Church

Elizabeth Isichei, “North African Christianity in Antiquity,” and “The Church of the Middle Years c. 1500 to c. 1800,” pp. 13-73 of *A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present*.

Study Day: March 6

A15-March 7: Midterm Examination

Port Louis: March 9

A16- March 10: Christianity in Africa: European Missionaries

Elizabeth Isichei, “Mission Renewed,” pp. 74-97 of *A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present*.

Kwame Bediako, “The Making of Christian Africa: The Surprise Story of the Modern Missionary Movement,” pp. 191-209 of *Christianity in Africa: The Renewal of Non-Western Religion*.

Study Day: March 12

A17-March 13: Christianity in Southern Africa

Elizabeth Isichei, “Southern Africa to c. 1900,” and “South Africa and Its Neighbors Since 1900,” pp. 98-127 and 299-322 of *A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present*.

Cape Town: March 15-20

A18- March 21: Christianity in East Africa (Reading Quiz 8)

Elizabeth Isichei, “East and East Central Africa to c. 1900,” and “East and East Central Africa c. 1900 to 1960,” pp. 128-152 and 228-263 of *A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present*.

A19-March 23: Christianity in Central Africa

Elizabeth Isichei, “West Central Africa,” pp.183-208 of *A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present*.

A20-March 25: Christianity in West Africa (Reading Quiz 1)

Elizabeth Isichei, “West Africa to c. 1900,” and “West Africa c. 1900 to 1960,” pp.153-182 and 264-298 of *A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present*.

Takoradi: March 27-28

Tema: March 29-31

A21- April 1: Christianity in North Africa

Elizabeth Isichei, “Northern Africa,” pp. 209-227 of *A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present*.

A22-April 3: Christianity in Africa: Assessing the Encounter (Reading Quiz 1)

Elizabeth Isichei, "Independent Black Africa Since 1960: Church, State and Society," pp. 323-353 of *A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present*.

A23: April 5: The Impacts of Africa on Christianity

Thomas C. Ogden, "Seven Ways Africa Shaped the Christian Mind," pp. 42-61 of *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity*

Casablanca: April 7-11

Study Day: April 12

A24: A Day Finals, April 13

April 16: Disembarkation Day

FIELD WORK

Experiential course work on Semester at Sea is comprised of the required field lab led by your instructor and additional field assignments that span multiple ports.

FIELD LAB (At least 20 percent of the contact hours for each course, to be led by the instructor.)

Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field lab.

Written Assignment: Following each Field Lab, students will write a 5-6 page paper describing and reflecting upon the experience, illustrating in detail how understanding of class lectures and/or readings were enhanced by the site visit.

The field lab for this course takes place on **January 31**.

Field Lab: Christian Cathedrals and Shrines of Shanghai.

This field lab will take us to the largest cathedral of Shanghai (St. Ignatius Cathedral), the first cathedral in Shanghai (St. Francis Xavier Church), and the only active pilgrimage site for Catholics in China (Basilica of Our Lady of She Shan). Time permitting, we will also visit the largest Interdenominational Christian Church (and Gothic style church) in Shanghai (Shanghai Community Fellowship). Clergy in St. Ignatius Cathedral, St. Francis Xavier Church, Shanghai Community Fellowship, and Our Lady of She Shan Basilica will offer students a guided tour of the churches, sketch out the histories of these churches in the colonial and modern eras, and introduce them to basic elements of Christian worship in these sites.

Academic Objectives:

1. Explore the differing shapes and histories of Christian worship in China.
2. Tour several major Christian sites in/around Shanghai, including a cathedral and

pilgrimage shrine.

3. Identify ways in which the worship, art, music, and institutional structures of Christianity have been influenced by its Asian context.

FIELD WORK & FIELD ASSIGNMENT JOURNAL

- In this course, we have the opportunity to see Christian churches or shrines in differing countries in Asia and Africa and observe the concrete and distinctive forms Christian worship, art, music, and church structures have taken across these continents. In these places we will look for specific ways in which a European Christianity has inserted itself into and been altered by the diverse religious contexts of Asia and Africa. Students are required to visit three or more religious sites (one of these will be the Field Lab) and keep a field journal of what you see.

- Each journal entry should be 2-3 pages in length. State where you went, the date of your visit, what port it was, and what Christian denomination the site is associated with. You should make field notes either during or immediately after your visit. When you adapt your notes to a journal, try to describe everything that you saw and did. Was there a festival or ritual ceremony taking place? What were people doing? How were they dressed? Were there women? Children? Did you talk to anyone? You are also encouraged to be reflective of your experience. How did it make you feel? Were you excited? Nervous? Shocked? Finally, how did your experience of this tradition compare to the description in your textbook? What was similar and what was different?

- At the end of the course, journal entries will be evaluated based on: (1) the presence of a clear, detailed description of at least four elements of the visit, (2) a brief description of your response to these four elements, (3) a clear analysis of how your experience of these elements enriched your understanding of material learned in class or from assigned readings. The grade will also pay attention to: (1) apparent effort in doing field work, (2) quality of writing, and (3) your ability to apply appropriate terms and concepts from readings and lectures to your own observations of religious practices and places of worship or reverence.

Before visiting religious sites on your own, it is highly recommended that you review *How to Be A Perfect Stranger* by Stuart Mattins and Arthur Magida, on reserve in the ship's library and in the course folder on the Shipboard web. As a rule of thumb, do not wear shorts or any clothing that might be considered "sexy" or provocative when visiting a sacred site.

APPROPRIATE FIELD SITES FOR FIELD JOURNAL VISITS

YOKOHAMA

1. **Christ Church, Yokohama** is a historic Anglican church located in Yamate, Yokohama, Japan. Providing a center of worship for both Japanese and English language based congregations the church traces its foundation to 1863, shortly after the formal opening of the treaty port of Yokohama.

2. **St. Andrew's Cathedral, Yokohama** is an Anglican-Episcopal church located in Yokohama, Japan, and is the diocesan cathedral of the Diocese of Yokohama, which includes all Anglican-Episcopal churches in Chiba, Kanagawa and Yamanashi Prefectures.
3. **Sacred Heart Cathedral** is the seat of the bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Yokohama, Japan. The Yokohama diocese includes Kanagawa, Shizuoka, Nagano, and Yamanashi prefectures. As it is located at 44 Yamate-cho, Naka-ku, the cathedral is commonly known locally as Yamate Catholic.

KOBE

1. **St. Michael's Cathedral (Anglican)** In 1881, a British missionary, The Rev. H. J. Foss (the first Bishop of Kobe Diocese and the founder of Shoin Women's University) laid the cornerstone for St. Michael's Church.

SHANGHAI

1. **St. Ignatius Cathedral** St. Ignatius Cathedral is Shanghai's greatest cathedral, opened by the Jesuits who have had a church here since as early as 1608.
2. **Basilica of Our Lady of She Shan** The 20-m high Sheshan Cathedral is a Catholic church in Shanghai, China. This was originally built by the Jesuits. Currently She Shan is the only active pilgrimage site for Roman Catholics in China.
3. **St. Francis Xavier Church.** First Roman Catholic cathedral of Shanghai. Decorated with Chinese influenced paintings.
4. **Shanghai Community Fellowship** One of Shanghai's biggest churches, this Gothic edifice is located in the heart of the former French Concession and can seat as many as 1,400 people.

HONG KONG

1. **Saint John's Cathedral** This is one of the grandest of the Anglican churches. Built in 1847, this cathedral is open to the public and offers a historic glimpse into 19th-century Hong Kong life.

HO CHI MONH CITY

1. **Notre Dame Cathedral.** Built in 1877, this is a French-style Cathedral made with bricks imported from Marseilles. It has two bell towers, reaching a height of 58 meters (190 feet).
2. **Nga Sau Church.** This church is dedicated to the French saint Joan of Arc. Pay close attention to how Asian reverence for female divinities such as Kwan-Yin has rubbed off on this Catholic Church.

RANGOON

1. **Holy Trinity Cathedral** The cathedral was built in 1894 and is listed as a heritage building in Yangon

MANDALAY

1. **All Saints Church Pyin U Lwin** Built 1912 as a regimental church for British soldiers. Today many British travelers take a ride by horse carriage to visit the church, which holds a register of British soldiers buried in the cemetery.
2. **St Mary's Cathedral** Built in 1899, the red brick, gothic style cathedral is the largest in Myanmar and is heritage-listed.

COCHIN

1. **St. Francis Church.** This Church was built by the Portuguese in 1503. This church is the original burial site of Vasco de Gama.
2. **St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church,** (Palayur, in Thrissur district in Kerala on the west coast of India.) According to tradition, it was established in 52 AD by St Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. It is the oldest church in India.

PORT LOUIS

1. **St. Croix Church and Pere Laval's Shrine.** Father Pere Jacque-Desire Laval was sent to Mauritius as a missionary and is deeply beloved by the people. Every year pilgrims flock to this site on the anniversary of his death. Many believe the shrine has healing powers.

CAPE TOWN.

1. **St. George's Cathedral.** This Anglican Cathedral is over a century old. The archbishop Desmond Tutu regularly held services here before his retirement.
2. **Groote Kerk** The Groote Kerk holds services in Afrikaans, but even if you don't follow the service, the organ music is superb. Find it on the junction of Adderley, Spin and Bureau streets, opposite the Slave Lodge.
3. **Central Methodist Mission** on Greenmarket Square is a well-integrated 'inner-city' church with members from the full spectrum of racial and economic backgrounds. Call 021 422 2744

TEMA

1. **Holy Trinity Cathedral** is an Anglican church in Accra, Ghana. Completed in 1894, it is part of the Anglican Diocese of Accra. *The funding for the Cathedral came from the colonial British government and was initially patronized by colonial expatriates. In 1909, the building was deemed a Cathedral upon the creation of the Diocese of Accra.*
2. **Mormon Temple.** This temple was dedicated in 2004 as an African base for Mormon missionaries.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

- *Quizzes*: Students will take 10 reading quizzes throughout the term, giving evidence of having read *and* understood the readings assigned for class.
- *Field Lab Report*: Students will write a 5-6 page Field Lab paper that: (1) describes in detail 2 or more distinct elements of the site visit, (2) offers a reflection on the different meanings of these elements for the religious practitioner *and* for the student, and (3) illustrates in some detail (with ample citation) *how* the experience of or encounter with these 2 or more elements *enriched* the student's understanding of some class reading or lecture.
- *Field Journal*: Students will submit a Field Journal (described in more detail above) recording their visit to three or more religious sites during the semester.
- Students will take a Midterm and Final examination covering assigned readings and classroom lectures.

Participation:	5%
Reading Quizzes:	15%
Field Lab Paper	20%
Midterm Examination (March 10)	20%
Field Assignment Journal	20%
Final Examination	20%

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Attendance will be taken every day, and students are expected to attend all classes and be prepared to answer written and oral questions about assigned materials. Given the size of this lens course, students must take extra care to avoid becoming disconnected from or a distraction to the learning going on in class.

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Philip Jenkins

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The Rise of the New Christianity"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity

VOLUME:

DATE: 2011

PAGES: 101-133

AUTHOR: Samuel Hugh Moffett

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "First Missions to India"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *A History of Christianity in Asia: Beginnings to 1500.*

VOLUME: Volume 1

DATE: 2014

PAGES: 24-39

AUTHOR: Samuel Hugh Moffett

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "India (1500-1700): St. Thomas or St. Peter?"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *A History of Christianity in Asia: 1500-1900*
VOLUME: Volume 2
DATE: 2014
PAGES: 3-35

AUTHOR: Kwame Bediako
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The Making of Christian Africa: The Surprise Story of the Modern Missionary Movement."
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *A History of Christianity in Africa: From Antiquity to the Present*
VOLUME:
DATE: 1996
PAGES: 191-209.

AUTHOR: Thomas Ogden
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Seven Ways Africa Shaped the Christian Mind"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity*
VOLUME:
DATE: 2010
PAGES: 42-61

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed "[signed]."