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**MS 685 The Church Abroad: China**

James Loftin

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Asbury Theological Seminary

The Church Abroad: CHINA

MS685 (3 hours)
June 12-24, 2002

Professor and Trip Leader: James Loftin, Director of Missions and Worship, ATS-F
office 407/482-7653    home 407/971-0128
James_Loftin@asburyseminary.edu

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COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Purpose
The purpose of the course is to expose participants to the work of the Holy Spirit in a cross-cultural setting with the hope that each person will develop a deeper understanding of the Chinese church and a greater passion for missions.

Course Description
On June 12 the group will fly from the USA to Beijing, arriving on June 13. After spending two days in Beijing, we will travel to two other cities in southern China. We will fly from Hong Kong back to the USA on June 24. In each city we will meet with leaders from either the house church movement or the Three Self Church. We will be exposed to God’s work in churches, seminaries, informal leadership training programs, literature distribution ministries, and orphanages. Travel within China will be by plane, train and taxi. Lodging will be in quality hotels. Lectures and training will be provided in the US by James Loftin, and in China by qualified leaders of church movements and seminaries.

Course Highlights
• Explore the history and culture of China by visiting historic sites
• Hear the stories of many Chinese believers.
• Take prayer walks in strategic places in the country.
• Develop a better understanding of what it means to follow Christ in an environment that is politically and traditionally hostile to the Christian faith.
• Hear the Good News from non-Western believers in Three Self Churches and in House Churches.
• Experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Chinese context.

Educational Methods
The primary method of education will be contextural involvement in China. The following methods will also be utilized: lecture, videotapes and audiotapes, reading, and written reflection.

Learning Goals: Competencies to be developed by the students
It is expected that students successfully completing this course will be able to—
1. Compare the Three Self and House Church movements in terms of their differences and similarities, and their respective histories, memberships, strengths, and weaknesses.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the major principles of Chinese worldviews and how these impact the communication the Gospel.
3. Communicate a basic understanding of the principles and strategies that are helpful for westerners wanting to develop ministry partnerships in the Asian context.

4. Communicate reasons for the use of short-term missions trips in the local church, and the skills and procedures that are needed to organize and lead these trips.

Required Resources and Course Texts.

All these must be read, viewed or listened to prior to the trip.

An Introduction to the Mainland Chinese Soul. Various authors (unnamed). 2001. $5 each from LEAD Consulting, PO Box 32026, Raleigh, NC 27622. 919/783-0354. 50 pages.

China, The Forgotten Harvest. Video produced by the Church of God, Cleveland that illustrates the growth of the church in China and tells the story of Pastor George Chen. 9 minutes. Counts as 5 pages.


*Reading packet of selected articles and readings. Includes info on spiritual warfare, prayer walking, the Serving China Primer, Stone research paper, issues of China Source and other photocopied articles. 100 pages.


Total pages pre-trip 1,000

Choose from the following to complete the 1,200 page requirement. This reading may be completed on or after the trip.

Any biography of a Chinese Christian such as Watchman Nee, Wang Mingdao, John Sung, and Samuel Lang, or a biography on a missionary who served in China such as Hudson Taylor, John and Betty Stam, Jonathan Goforth, Benjamin Broomhall, Gladys Aylward and Eric Liddell.

Total pages post-trip 200

Assignments

Each student is required to read 1,200 pages of material and turn in two papers. A 3,000-word paper is due on June 11 (12 point font, double spaced). This paper should react to all the pre-trip reading and address each of the Learning Goals as stated above. Footnotes or some other
method must be used to specify references sited in the paper. No fewer than eight different references should be referenced and cited in the paper.

The balance of the required reading (200 pages) can be read on or after the trip. The second paper is to be written after the trip. This paper should be a reflection of the student’s experience in China—

- Share your thoughts regarding lessons the North American church could learn from the Chinese church.
- Communicate something from your personal experience in China. How will your faith and ministry be impacted by this experience?

Attached to the second paper should be a paper stating that the student has read all the required reading and this report should list the title, author and number of pages of the book read after the trip, the book used to complete the reading requirement for the class. The second paper and the reading statement are due in James Loftin’s office by July 5—12 point font (double spaced and 1,000 words). Both papers may be emailed, but a hard copy of each is also required.

**Course Evaluation**

A student’s grade for the course will be based on their preparation before the trip to China, their involvement in the cross-cultural experience, their completion of assigned readings and their two papers.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Maximum points</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Completion and documentation of the assigned readings</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip</td>
<td>Demonstration of an eagerness to learn from our Chinese hosts, other team members and the leaders</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Timely submission of papers that are well-written, well-documented, appropriate in length, and provide thoughtful commentary on the topics listed as the Learning Goals for this course.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Grade</td>
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See the grading scale in the *Grading and Evaluation* section in the Seminary catalog for grading criteria.

**Personal Impact Goals**

In addition to helping participant acquire greater knowledge about the Chinese church and the related subjects mentioned in the Learning Goals section, it is hoped that God will use this course to impact students in the following ways. May God—

1. Expand our worldview and our understanding of God’s global family.
2. Give us an awareness of our need as western Christians to hear the Good News from non-Western sisters and brothers.
3. Expand our awareness and appreciation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
4. Give us a passion for reaching those who have not heard the Good News (the unreached peoples of the world).
5. Clarify our understanding of God’s missional call on our lives.
Meetings Prior to the Trip
One meeting will be held before the trip: 1:00-4:00 p.m., Saturday, May 11. Participants are expected to be present in Orlando for these meetings or to attend it via V-Tel.

Cost
$2,300 covers the deposit, travel costs and academic registration for MS685: China. A deposit of $250 must be made by March 31—This check must be made payable to ATS and mailed to James Loftin, Asbury Theological Seminary, 8401 Valencia College Lane, Orlando, FL 32825. A final payment of $1,282 ($2,300 less $768 tuition less the $250 deposit) should be made out to Asbury and sent to James Loftin’s office in Orlando no later than June 1. Payment of $768 for tuition should be made to your student account by the deadline for June classes, June 21.

Registration
Registration is limited to fifteen people. Check with James Loftin via email to confirm space availability. Once Rev. Loftin confirms that space is available, mail his office in Orlando the $250 deposit in order that a plane ticket may be reserved. Your spot in the class will not be confirmed until the deposit is received and Rev. Loftin has checked with the Registrar.

Passport
If you do not have a passport, apply for one immediately. If you already have a passport, check to make sure that it will not expire before December 2002. Contact Rev. Loftin for special instructions. Rev. Loftin’s office will need a photocopy of the first page of the passport no later than April 15 in order to apply for the visas.

Financial Aid
Students are encouraged to seek support from their home congregations and supervised ministry sites in addition to their own families. This is a class but it is also a mission trip. See James Loftin for suggestions and help in soliciting support. Other financial aid may be available from the Office of Missions and Worship on the Orlando campus.