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MW 726 Religions of China

Terry C. Muck

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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
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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
Bond, Michael Harris. Beyond the Chinese Face: Insights From Psychology. New York:

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