

Belief and Social Life in China SPRING 2013
V90.0351/V14.0351/V33.0352

Professor Angela Zito 726 Broadway Suite 554 992-9656 angela.zito@nyu.edu
TA Michela Duranti md2496@nyu.edu



The Chinese word for "religion" means "teaching." "Teaching" immediately implies at least two people and belief in China has always been theorized and practiced as mediated by the presence of others, miraculous and mundane. We will explore what Chinese people "taught" themselves about the person, society and the natural world and thus how social life was constructed and maintained. We will examine in historical perspective the classic texts of the Taoist and Confucian canon and their synthesis; Buddhism and the synthesis of the "Three Teachings." We will introduce modern religious life on Taiwan and in the People's Republic.

REQUIREMENTS

Mindful reading and wakeful attendance. Two (6-7 page) essays on assigned topics. An 8-10 page paper on a choice of the novels Joy Luck Club or Monkey. Occasional short responses.

EVALUATION

Attendance and participation; short response papers-- 15%
Short essays -- 25% each. Final paper-- 35%
Only medical extensions granted.

READINGS

The following *books are required in their entirety—find them at the **NYU bookstore**

*Berger, Peter. *The Sacred Canopy*

*Chang, K. C. *Art, Myth and Ritual*

*Fingarette, Herbert. *Confucius: the secular as sacred*

*Watson, Burton, tr. *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings*

*Wright, Arthur. *Buddhism in Chinese History*

*Thich Nhat Hanh *The Heart of Understanding*

Choose *Tan, Amy. *Joy Luck Club* **OR** *Waley, Arthur. *Monkey*

(Optional—for consultation—you can buy them)

Chan, W. T. *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy*

Gernet, Jacques. *A History of Chinese Civilization*

All other assigned readings are on Classes and available for download and printing. Complete bibliographic info for all sources, including books, is attached to the syllabus.

Readings due the day they appear.

I. CLASSICAL DEBATES: CULTURE, PERSONS, COSMOS

1. M 1/28 Introduction
W 1/30 Archaic Religion
*K. C. Chang, *Art, Myth and Ritual* 56-127
2. M 2/4 The production of culture/religion
K. C. Chang 1-56
W 2/6 *Peter Berger, *The Sacred Canopy* 1-101
3. M 2/11 Berger (cont)
W 2/13 Confucian li/ritual
W. T. Chan 14-48 “Analects of Confucius”
4. M 2/18 PRESIDENT’S DAY, NO CLASS
W 2/20 Daoist Cosmos
Wilhelm “Change” 3-34
Tao Te-ching in *W. T. Chan 136-176
5. M 2/25 *Fingarette *Confucius: The secular as sacred* (entire)

***** FIRST ESSAY TOPICS GIVEN OUT *****

- W 2/27 Chuang-tzu, revisiting Daoism
*Watson's translation, 23-95

Recommended as background for writing on pre-Han China :

*Gernet, *A history of Chinese civilization*, 51-101

- 6 MON 3/4 ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS for small group discussions—
if you do not have your paper to hand in, you may not attend class.**

II. IMPERIAL COSMIC EXPANSION

W 3/6 Han world/ Han cosmos

*Gernet, 101-149

Stephen Bennett, "Pattern"

*W. T. Chan 271-84

7. M 3/11 Taoist ritual and body technologies

*Gernet, 149-171

Max Kaltenmark 107-148

W 3/13 Livia Kohn "Guarding the One" : 125-150

Michael Puett: 223-252.

Wang Bi and Hoshang Gong Commentaries to the Laozi

SPRING BREAK 3/18-3/22

8. M 3/25 Filiality

*W. T. Chan, "The Great Learning" 84-95

Laurence Thompson "The Family: Kindred and Ancestors" ; 34-56

Ivan Chen, tr. *Hsiao-ching: Book of Filial Duty* 15-32

W 3/27 Filiality continued

Patricia Ebrey, tr. "The Book of Filial Piety for Women" 47-69

Ivan Chen, tr. *Hsiao-ching: Book of Filial Duty* 15-32

ADD Ying-shi Yu, "Oh Soul"

9. M 4/1 Buddhism, introduction

Rahula, "What the Buddha Taught" pp. 16-50

W 4/3 Emptiness, Interbeing and Mahayana

*Thich Nhat Han, *The Heart of Understanding* (entire book)

Sources in Chinese Tradition edited by Wm. T. DeBary 280-90; 334-350.

10. M 4/8 Buddhism in China

*Arthur Wright, *Buddhism in Chinese History* 1-85

Alan Cole *Mothers and Sons in Chinese Buddhism*, 1-79

W 4/10 Buddhist Filiality and gender

Alan Cole, 132-end of book

Ivan Chen, *Book of Filial Duty* (pp. 33-60)

*****SECOND ESSAY TOPICS GIVEN OUT

11. M 4/15 Belief and social life in Medieval China

*Arthur Wright 86-107

*Barbara Reed, "Gender Symbolism of Guanyin Bodhisattva" 159-180

- W 4/17 The “Three Teachings” synthesize in late imperial China
 Judith Berling, “Religion and popular culture: the management of moral capital” : 188-218
 Joanna Handlin-Smith, “Liberating animals in Ming-Qing China.. .”:51-84
 Donald Sutton, “Prefect Feng and the Yangzhou Drought of 1490: A Ming social Crisis and the rewards of sincerity: 13-48.
 *Gernet: 423-436 (optional)

12. M 4/22 ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS for small group discussion
if you do not have your paper to hand in, you may not attend class.

III. MODERN PEOPLE'S PRACTICES

13. W 4/24 Gods, Ghosts, Gender
 Wolf, Arthur P. “Gods, ghosts and ancestors.” 130-182
 P. Steven Sangren, “Female Gender in Chinese Religious Symbols:” 4-25
 James Watson, “Of flesh and bones: the management of death pollution in Cantonese society.” Pp. 155-186

**** FINAL TOPICS WILL BE GIVEN OUT ****

****PERHAPS BEGIN READING YOUR NOVEL ?? ****

14. M 4/29 Religion in the People's Republic
 Goossaert, Vincent, “The Social organization of religious communities in the 20th century” 172-190
 Laliberte, Andre, “Contemporary issues in state-religion relations”191-208

W 5/1 Dean, Kenneth, “Further partings of the way: The Chinese state and Daoist ritual tradition. 179-210.

Film screening: *Bored in Heaven* Directed by Ken Dean <http://www.boredinheaven.com/>

A film about ritual sensation, Fujian, China, 2010

“Bored in Heaven” follows New Years celebrations in Putian, Fujian, Southeast China. An experiential project based on 20 years of research by Kenneth Dean and Zheng Zhenman, this film illustrates the growing intensity of local traditions, as rural villages and their temples transition into a new century. Villages in this part of China are undergoing radical transformations. As land that was once public and agricultural is rebuilt and changes hands, the intricate temple system has responded. During the Cultural Revolution temples were torn down—now they are being built up into ritual alliances.

Filmed in two weeks, in a 400sq km area, see vibrant performances of local power, massive community processions, elaborate Taoist rituals, and trance dances by spirit mediums, all performing parts of the overall ritual in honor of the gods. The film builds on the story of the Theater God. His story is told in a ritual performance, by actors, opera singers and puppeteers.

15. M 5/6 Chau, Adam, “The sensorial production of the social” pp. 485—504
 Siu, Helen F., “Recycling ritual: Politics and popular culture in contemporary rural China” pp.121-137

W 5/8 Ritual, cosmology and filiality
Discussing *Joy Luck Club* and *Monkey*

16. M 5/13 LAST DAY OF CLASS
Tan/Waley **PAPERS DUE IN CLASS** for a workshop
if you do not have your paper to hand in, you may not attend class.

There will be NO EXTENSIONS—this paper constitutes the FINAL EXAM.

Belief and Social Life in China: complete bibliography

Below you will find every book and essay assigned in the course, listed in alphabetical order by author, with its complete bibliographical information. You should use this info when you do your own footnotes and bibliographies. **The order of assignments is on the syllabus**—use this bibliography WITH the syllabus and “Classes”.

***Books** for sale at Shakespeare’s Books on Broadway.

Bennet, Steven J. “Patterns of the sky and earth: A Chinese science of applied cosmology.” *Chinese Science* 3 (1978): 1-26.

*Berger, Peter. *The Sacred Canopy*. New York: Anchor Books/Doubleday, 1990.

Berling, Judith, “Religion and popular culture: the management of moral capital in *The Romance of the Three Teachings*” in *Popular culture in late imperial China*, ed. David Johnson et al. U. of California Press, 1985): 188- 218.

*Chan, W. T. *A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy* Princeton University Press, 1963.

*Chang, K. C. *Art, Myth and Ritual in China*. Harvard University Press, 1988.

Chau, Adam. “The Sensorial Production of the Social.” *Ethnos*,73:4 (2008): 485 — 504

Chen, Ivan, trans. *Hsiao Ching, the Book of Filial Duty*. London: John Murray, 1908.

Cole, Alan. *Mothers and sons in Chinese Buddhism*. Stanford University Press, 1998.

Dean, Kenneth, “Further partings of the way: The Chinese state and Daoist ritual tradition. In, *Making Religion, Making the State* ed. By Yoshi Ashiwa and David L. Wank. Stanford University Press, 2009. Pp. 179-210.

DeBary, William Theodore, et al eds. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*. Vol 1. New Your: Columbia University Press, 1969.

- Ebrey, Patricia, tr. “*The Book of Filial Piety for Women* attributed to a woman nee Zheng.” In *Under Confucian eyes; writings on gender in Chinese history*. Ed. Susan Mann and Yu-yin Cheng. University of California, 2001: 47-59.
- Eng, Irene and Yi-min Lin, “Religious festivities, communal rivalry and restructuring of authority relations in rural Chaozhou, Southeast China” *Journal of Asian Studies* 61.4 (Nov 2002):1259-1286.
- *Fingarette, Herbert. *Confucius: The secular as sacred*. Reissued edition. Waveland Press, 1998.
- *Gernet, Jacques. *A history of Chinese civilization*. University of Cambridge Press, 1988.
- Goossaert, Vincent, “The Social organization of religious communities in the 20th century” In, *Chinese Religious Life*. Edited by David A. Palmer, Glenn Shive and Philip L. Wickeri. Oxford University Press, 2011. Pp. 172-190
- *Hanh, Thich-nhat. *The heart of understanding*. Parallax Press, 1988.
- Handlin-Smith, Joanna. “Liberating animals in Ming-Qing China: Buddhist inspiration and elite imagination”. *Journal of Asian Studies* 58.1 (Feb 1999): 51-84.
- Kaltenmark, Max. *Lao Tzu and Taoism*. Stanford University Press, 1965.
- Kohn, Livia. “Guarding the One” in *Taoist Meditation and Longevity Techniques*, edited by Livia Kohn. Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 1989.
- Laliberte, Andre, “Contemporary issues in state-religion relations.” In, *Chinese Religious Life*. Edited by David A. Palmer, Glenn Shive and Philip L. Wickeri. Oxford University Press, 2011. Pp. 191-208
- MacInnis, Donald E. *Religious policy and practice in Communist China: a documentary history*. Macmillan Co.1972. pp. 6-11
- Puett, Michael. “Becoming Laozi: Cultivating and Visualizing Spirits in Early Medieval China.” *Asia Major*, Third series, 23.1 (2010): 223-252.
- Rahula, Walpole. *What the Buddha Taught*. Second Edition. New York: Grove Press, 1974.
- Reed, Barbara. “The Gender symbolism of Kuan-yin Bodhisattva.” In Cabezon, ed. *Buddhism, sexuality and gender*. In *Buddhism, Sexuality and Gender*, edited by Jose Cabezon. Albany: SUNY Press, 1985.
- Sangren, P. Steven. “Female gender in Chinese religious symbols” Kuan Yin, Ma Tsu, and the “Eternal Mother”. *Signs* (Autumn 1983): 4-25
- Siu, Helen F. “Recycling ritual: Politics and popular culture in contemporary rural China.” In *Unofficial China: Popular Culture and thought in the People’s Republic of China*. Perry Link, Madsen and Paul Pickowcz. San Francisco: Boulder Press, 1989. pp.121-137

Sutton, Donald. "Prefect Feng and the Yangzhou Drought of 1490: A Ming social crisis and the rewards of sincerity". *Journal of Chinese ritual, theatre and folklore* no. 143 (march 2004): 13-48.

*Tan, Amy. *The Joyluck Club*.

Thompson, Laurence. *Chinese Religion*. 5th edition. Belmont CA: Wadsworth Publications, 1996: 341-52.

*Waley, Arthur, trans. *Monkey*. Grove Press, 1970.

*Watson, Burton, trans. *Chuang-tsu: Basic writings*. Reprint Edition. Columbia University Press, 1996.

Watson, James. "Of flesh and bones: the management of death pollution in Cantonese society." In *Death and the regeneration of life*. Edited by Maurice Bloch and Jonathan Parry. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. Pp. 155-186.

Weller, Robert. "Living at the edge: Religion, capitalism and the end of the Nation-state in Taiwan." *Public Culture* 12.2 (Spring 2000): 477-498.

Wilhelm, Hellmut. *Change: Eight Lectures on the I-ching*. Princeton University Press, 1960.

Wolf, Arthur P. "Gods, ghosts and ancestors." In *Religion and ritual in Chinese society*. Edited by Arthur Wolf. Stanford University Press, 1974.pp. 130-182.

Yu, Yingshih. "O Soul come back! A study in the changing conceptions of the soul and afterlife in Pre-Buddhist China" *Harvard Journal of Asian Studies* 47 (1987): 363-395.