

Rel 47 Winter 14
Introduction to Chinese Buddhism
Gil Raz

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M, W, F: 1:45-2:50

Office hours: M, F 3-4, or by appointment
X-hr: Tu 1:00-1:50

Thornton Hall 306

Buddhism originated in India and spread through Asia to become the religion of the majority of people in China, Japan, Tibet and South East Asia. With different local forms and a bewildering array of practices, Buddhism is evidence for the great religious creativity of humankind. What makes Buddhism such an attractive religion to so many people of different cultures?

This course focuses on the integration and development of the Buddhist tradition in China. In particular, we will look at the ways Buddhism shaped and was in turn shaped by Chinese culture. Our investigation will include Buddhist traditions which arose in China, such as Pure Land, Chan (better known as Zen, its Japanese name), reverence of Bodhisattva Guanyin, and the Ghost Festival. These ideas and practices remain at the core of present-day Buddhist practices in China and East Asia.

Grading will be based on active participation in class (10%), TWO short written assignments (2x20%), a midterm exam (20%) and a final exam (30%).

Required Books:

Lopez, Donald S. *The Story of Buddhism: a concise guide to its history and teachings*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2002.

McRae, John R. *Seeing Through Zen: Encounter, Transformation, and Geneology in Chinese Chan Buddhism*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Teiser, Stephen F. *The Ghost Festival in Medieval China*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988.

CR = **Course Reader**

Reading and Lecture Schedule

M 1/6 Introduction

W 1/8 **What is Buddhism?**
Lopez, *The story of Buddhism*, 1-36

F 1/10 **The Buddha**

(1) Lopez, *The story of Buddhism*, 37-64

(2) (CR) Paul Williams with Anthony Tribe, *Buddhist Thought, A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition* (London and New York: Routledge, 2000): 1-40.

M 1/13 (BB) Williams, *Buddhist Thought*, 41-87.

W 1/15 **Mahayana**

Lopez, *The Story of Buddhism*, 64-101.

F 1/17 **Dharma**

Lopez, *The Story of Buddhism*, 103-128.

(CR) *Heart Sutra* from Pauline Yu, ed. *Ways with words: writing about reading texts from early China* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000): 113-145.

*** Handout Paper 1 *Diamond Sutra*

Due: Fri 1/24

M 1/20

MLK DAY

Tu 1/21 X-hr **Chinese Background: 1) Common Religion**

(CR) Richard von Glahn, *The Sinister Way* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000): 19-77.

W 1/22 **Chinese Background: 2) Confucianism**

(CR) “Confucius and the Analects” from *Sources of Chinese Tradition* Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, comp., (Columbia University Press): 41-63.

F 1/24 **Chinese Background: 3) Daoism**

(CR) “The Way of Laozi and Zhuangzi” from de Bary and Bloom, *Sources of Chinese Tradition*: 77-111

*** Paper 1 Due (email, by 9am) ***

M 1/27 **Arrival of Buddhism in China**

(CR) Stephen Teiser, “Buddhism in China” in *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Lindsay Jones, ed. (Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005, 2nd ed.), pp. p1160-1169.

(CR) “Scripture in Forty-two Sections” from Donald Lopez, ed. *Religions of China in Practice* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996): 360-371.

(CR) *Mouzi lihuo lun* from John P. Keenan, *How Master Mou removes Our Doubts* (Albany, SUNY press, 1994): 47-57, 59-64, 69-90, 94-99.

W 1/29 **Hui Yuan: An Early Buddhist Advocate**

(CR) “Biography of Shi Huiyuan” from Erik Zürcher “The Buddhist Conquest of China” (Leiden: EJ Brill, 1972): 240-253.

(CR) “Scholarship” from John Kieschnick, *The Eminent Monk: Buddhist Ideals in Medieval Chinese Hagiography* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1997), pp. 113-135.

F 1/31 **Monastic Life**

Lopez, *The Story of Buddhism*, pp.130-165

(CR) “Daily Life in the Assembly” from Donald Lopez, ed. *Buddhism in Practice* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), pp.455-472.

M 2/3 **Lay Practice: The Ghost Festival**

(1) Lopez, *The Story of Buddhism*, pp.167-204

(2) Stephen Teiser, *The Ghost Festival in Medieval China*, Ch. 1 and 2, pp. 3-42

Tu 2/4 X-hr

(CR) “Mahāmaudgalyāyana Rescuing His Mother from the Underworld” from Victor H. Mair, ed. *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994): 1093-1127.

W 2/5 Stephen Teiser, *The Ghost Festival*, ch.6-7, pp.168-213

F 2/7 **WINTER CARNIVAL**

M 2/10 **Pure Land Buddhism**

Lopez, *The story of Buddhism*, pp.230-242.

(CR) *Shorter Sukhavativyuha Sutra*: from Luis O. Gomez, *Land Of Bliss: The Paradise of the Buddha of Measureless Light* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1996): 3-13, 125-151.

T 2/11 ** **Midterm In-class ****

W 2/12(CR) “Visions of Manjusri on Mt. Wutai” in *Religions of China in Practice*: 203-222

(CR) “Pure Land Buddhist Practice and Meditation in China” from *Buddhism in Practice*: 359-379

(CR) “Death Bed Testimonials of the Pure Land Faithful” from *Buddhism in Practice*: 592-602

F 2/14 Discussion of *** Film: *To the Land of Bliss**** (On server)

M 2/17 **Transformations of Guanyin**

(CR) Watson, *Lotus Sutra*, pp. 119-127.

(CR) “Earliest Tales of the Bodhisattva Guanshiyin” in *Religions of China in Practice*: 83-96.

(CR) “A Sutra Promoting the White-Robed Guanyin as Giver of Sons” in *Religions of China in Practice*: 97-105.

W 2/19(CR) Stele Text of the “Life of the Great Compassionate One” in Chün-fang Yü, *Kuan-yin, The Chinese Transformation of Avalokitesvara*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001): 495-504.

F 2/21 Discussion of *** Film: *Kuan-yin Pilgrimage* *** (On server)

(CR) “Chinese Women Pilgrims’ Songs Glorifying Kuan-yin” in *Kuan-yin*: 505-509

M 2/24 **Chan**

John R. McRae, *Seeing Through Zen*, 1-44.

(CR) Selections from Jeffrey L. Broughton, *The Bodhidharma Anthology* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999), pp. 8-13, 68-75.

Handout: Paper 2 (Due M 3/3)

T 2/25 McRae, *Seeing Through Zen*, 45-73.

(CR) *Platform Sutra* from de Bary and Bloom, *Sources of Chinese Tradition*: 494-504.

W 2/26 McRae, *Seeing Through Zen*, 74-118.

F 2/28 McRae, *Seeing Through Zen*, 119-154

(CR) Linji Yixuan: "Seeing into one's own nature" from de Bary and Bloom, *Sources of Chinese Tradition*: 504-509.

(CR) "Lin-chi" from Heinrich Dumoulin, *Zen Buddhism: A History* (New York: Macmillan, 1994), p.179-201.

(CR) "Anecdotes of Master Caoshan" from de Bary and Bloom, *Sources of Chinese Tradition*: 509-514.

M 3/3 (CR) *Wumen's gate* (cases 1-23, 29-37): 71-89, 94-99.

(CR) "Yuanwu: Blue Cliff Records" from de Bary and Bloom, *Sources of Chinese Tradition*: 514-516.

T 3/4 Discussion of Paper 2

W 3/5 **Chan Mummies?**

(1) Bernard Faure, "Metamorphoses of the Double" in *The Rhetoric of Immediacy, A Cultural Critique of Chan/Zen Buddhism* (Princeton University Press, 1991): 132-178.

(2) Bernard Faure, "Relics and Flesh Bodies: The Creation of Ch'an Pilgrimage Sites" in Susan Naquin and Chun-fang Yu, *Pilgrims and Sacred Sites in China* (University of California Press, 1992): 150-180.

F 3/7 *** **Last Class: Final Thoughts and Final Take-home exam** ***

Sunday 3/12 Final Exam Due (at noon)