

## Syllabus

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This course is a general introduction to the Buddhist traditions of East Asia. The goals of the class are threefold: to introduce students to the philosophical and ritual systems associated with the development of the Buddhist traditions of East Asia, to increase each student's understanding of the historical and cultural frameworks in which these traditions developed, and to introduce approaches in the study of religion that may enhance each student's awareness of religious issues and phenomena that pervade our own life.

In grappling with the above issues across a wide range of historical settings, I encourage you to resist the urge to reduce this process to a series of doctrinal developments. Throughout the course we will instead focus on a relatively small number of symbols and religious concerns that have been appropriated in an astonishingly large number of ways by communities and individuals seeking both self-understanding and a better life. Towards this end I have tried where possible to orient readings and lectures towards primary sources, both as a way of introducing significant landmarks of East Asian cultures and to challenge each student to directly engage in his or her own dialogue with the subject matter of this course.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) 3 Short Reading Quizzes (3% each = 9%)
- 2) One midterm examination (20%)
- 3) One final examination (30%)
- 4) One final paper, 8-10 pages in length, on a topic to be cleared with the instructor (40%)

Final papers should be submitted via hard copy and email, unless instructed otherwise by your TA. Hard copies should be brought to the religion department and placed in your TA's mailbox. (Be sure to know who your TA is.) Papers are due Monday, May 6th.

### READINGS

Ames, Roger T. and Henry Rosemont, Jr. The Analects of Confucius: a Philosophical Translation  
DeBary, William T. The Buddhist Tradition in India.  
Earhart, Byron. Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity.  
Fingarette, Herbert. Confucius: The Secular as Sacred.  
Gomez, Luis. The Land of Bliss.  
Harvey, Peter. An Introduction to Buddhism.  
Hee-jin Keel, Understanding Shinran  
Hori Ichiro, Folk Religions in Japan.  
Hurvitz, Leon. trans. Scripture of the Lotus Blossom of the Fine Dharma  
Lopez, Donald. Buddhism in Practice  
Lopez, Donald. Buddhist Scriptures  
Lopez, Donald. Religions of China in Practice  
Lopez, Donald. Religions of India in Practice.  
Lopez, Donald. Religions of Tibet in Practice.  
Matsunaga, Daigan and Alicia Matsunaga, Foundations of Japanese Buddhism  
McRae, John. Seeing Through Zen.  
Payne, Richard. Tantric Buddhism in East Asia.  
Pu, Muzhou. In Search of Personal Welfare.  
Sharf, Robert H. Coming to Terms with Chinese Buddhism.  
Stone, Jacqueline. Original Enlightenment and the transformation of medieval Japanese Buddhism.  
Strong, John. The Experience of Buddhism.  
Tanabe, George ed., Religions of Japan in Practice  
Teiser, Stephen. The Ghost Festival in Medieval China  
Watson, James L. and Evelyn S. Rawski. Death ritual in late imperial and modern China.

Wright, Arthur. Buddhism in Chinese History.  
Yampolsky, Philip B. trans. The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch  
Yokoi Yukio, Zen Master Dōgen

## CLASS SCHEDULE

1. 23 January Welcome and Heloes  
INDIA

2. 28 January Pre-Buddhist India  
Lopez, Religions of India in Practice 3-21.

3. 30 January Life of the Buddha  
De Bary, 55-72.  
Strong, 3-8

4. 4 February Life of the Buddha  
De Bary, 55-72.  
Strong, 34-39.

5. 6 February Arhat Buddhism  
Gombrich, 1-5, 87-124.  
Strong, 76-78, 109-111.

6. 11 February Birth of Mahāyāna  
Strong "The Skillful Means of Vimalakirti" 172-179.  
DeBary, 72-109.

7. 13 February Indian Buddhist Schools  
Strong, 143-158.  
Harvey, 89-113.  
CHINA

8. 18 February Chinese cosmology  
Pu, 123-156.  
Lopez, Religions of China in Practice 41-51

9. 20 February Ritual in China  
Watson and Rawski. 3-19.

10. 25 February Confucianism  
Fingarette, 1-56.  
Ames, 1-10, 71-81

11. 27 February Transmission: early problems  
Wright, 21-64.  
Sharf, 4-25.

12. 4 March Transmission: Dharma King, Ghost Festival  
Teiser 3-42

13. 6 March Lotus Buddhism  
Hurvitz, 117-142, 184-189, 224-232

14. 11 March Chinese Buddhist Schools  
de Bary, Buddhist Tradition in India 166-172, 179-196.  
Gomez, 3-13, 145-151.  
Lopez, Buddhist Scriptures 297-305.  
Lopez, Buddhism in Practice 359-379.  
Stone, 5-10

15. 13 March Midterm Examination

Spring Recess (March 18 - 22)

16. 25 March Chan

McRae, xix-xx, 1-22.  
Yampolsky, 123-134.

17. 27 March Chan

McRae, 23-45.

## JAPAN

18. 1 April Village Religion

Tanabe, 141-152  
Earhart, 1-19, 32-39.

19. 3 April Iconic Buddhism

Matsunaga, 9-23

20. 8 April Iconic Buddhism

Tanabe, 141-152

21. 10 Gyōki and the Great Buddha

Matsunaga, 115-133.

22. 15 April Gōryo

Hori, 83-126  
Tanabe, 343-353.

23. 17 April Saicho and Kukai

Tanabe, 354-359.  
Earhart, 83-97.

24. 22 April Esoteric Buddhism

Lopez, Buddhism in Practice 314-317, 318-327  
Lopez, Religions of Tibet in Practice 538-547.  
Payne, 1-22.

25. 24 April Hōnen and Shinran

Keel, 11-80

26. 29 April Dogen and Nichiren

Yokoi, 19-41.

27. May 1 Review and Goodbyes

May 6: Final Paper Due (8 - 10 pages, submitted electronically and via hard copy)