Religious Studies 360
ZEN BUDDHISM
Spring 2014

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This course will cover the history, doctrines, and practices of Zen Buddhism in China, where it originated and is called Chan; Japan, where it has influenced many aspects of Japanese culture and from where it was first exported to the West; and the United States. The class format will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Readings will be in both primary texts and secondary studies, and will be supplemented by films.

READING

- Kenneth Kraft, ed., *Zen: Tradition and Transition*
- Stephen Addiss, ed., *Zen Sourcebook: Traditional Documents from China, Korea, and Japan*
- Readings on Moodle (must be printed out and brought to class)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1. **Participation** (15%). Regular attendance, timely completion of reading assignments, active participation in class discussions, and one short conference with me in my office no later than Wednesday, January 29. Grading criteria are as follows:
   - A: Regular attendance (no more than 3 unexcused absences), regular contribution to discussion (at least once a week)
   - B: Regular attendance, occasional contribution
   - C: Too many absences OR too little contribution
   - D: Too many absences AND too little contribution
   - F: Other serious problems

   **Option:** To supplement the class discussion portion of your participation grade for any week, you may turn in a written "reaction paper" (1-2 pages, typed, maximum one per week) containing your reactions to, reflections on, and/or questions about course readings, films, and lectures. These will be graded 1 (credit), 2 (good), or 3 (excellent) and will be returned within a week with comments. The best times to turn these in would be on Mondays, after we have completed a section.

2. **One take-home essay** (10%), 3-5 pages. The topic will be distributed in class one week in advance.
3. **Two quizzes** (10% each), consisting entirely of short-answer questions.

4. **Two research papers** (20% each), 6-10 pages plus bibliography, following the **Paper Format Guide** (see also the **Paper Criteria**). Each paper will make use of at least two books or articles outside of assigned class readings.

5. **Final exam** (15%): short-answer questions like the quizzes, covering the entire course.

6. **Notes:**
   - *Laptops* are not allowed in class unless Erin Salva says you need one (see below).
   - *Cellphones* must be turned completely off.
   - *Online readings* must be printed out and brought to class. This is because I want you to engage with the readings by marking them up with notes.
   - No written assignments will be accepted electronically.
   - If you have a disability that will affect your work or participation in this class, please contact Erin Salva, Coordinator of Disability Services at 427-5453 or salvae@kenyon.edu, and speak to me individually, early in the semester, about any arrangements you will need.
   - **Academic Integrity:**
     At Kenyon we expect all students, at all times, to submit work that represents the highest standards of academic integrity. It is the responsibility of each student to learn and practice the proper ways of documenting and acknowledging those whose ideas and words they have drawn upon (see "Academic Honesty and Questions of Plagiarism" in the Course Catalog). Ignorance and carelessness are not excuses for academic dishonesty. If you are uncertain about the expectations for this class, please ask for clarification.

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*Meditating Daruma, by Nobutada (1565-1614)*
COURSE SCHEDULE

1 Jan 13-17  What is Zen?
Overview of Buddhist history
One Buddhist monk: Morinaga Sōkō

Reading: ✤ Kraft, Zen: Introduction (Kraft), ch. 1 (Morinaga)
✤ Adler, "Buddhism" [Moodle]
✤ Addiss, Zen Sourcebook: "Introduction" (Arai)

2 Jan 20-24  Early Mahayana and the Chinese context

Reading: ✤ Williams, Mahayana Buddhism: excerpts [Moodle]
✤ Khempo Yurmed Tînly Rinpoche, "The Prajñāpāramitā" [Moodle]
✤ Addiss, Zen Sourcebook: ch. 1

3 Jan 27-31  Proto-Chan (6th c.)
Foundation myths
Bodhidharma

Monday: Take-home essay due

Reading: ✤ McRae, Seeing Through Zen: xix-xx, chs.1-2
✤ Addiss, Zen Sourcebook: chs 2-3

4 Feb 3-7  Early Chan (7th - 8th c.)
Huineng and the Platform Sutra

Reading: ✤ McRae, Seeing Through Zen: ch. 3
✤ Addis, Zen Sourcebook, ch. 4
✤ The Platform Sutra [Moodle]
5 Feb 10-14  **Middle Chan (8th - 9th c.)**  
The Five Schools (houses, lineages)

**Reading:**  
- McRae, *Seeing Through Zen*: ch. 4  
- Addiss, *Zen Sourcebook*: chs 5-10  
- Mazu, Dongshan, and Caoshan (excerpts) [Moodle]  
- Cheng Chien, "The Monastic Tradition" [Moodle]

6 Feb 17-21  **Mature Chan / Song dynasty (10th - 13th c.)**

**Reading:**  
- McRae, *Seeing Through Zen*: chs. 5-6  
- Addiss, *Zen Sourcebook*: chs 11-15  
- Katsuki Sekida, *Mumonkan* cases 1, 6, 7 [Moodle]

7 Feb 24-28  **Chan practice 1**  
Meditation and mindfulness

**Monday: Quiz 1**

**Reading:**  
- Kraft, *Zen*: ch. 2 (Sheng Yen)  
- Sheng Yen, "The Four Foundations of Mindfulness" [Moodle]  
- Zongze, "Principles of Seated Meditation (zuochan)"

<< Spring Vacation >>

8 Mar 17-21  **Chan practice 2**  
Dahui and the "public case" (gong'an)  
Hongzhi and "silent illumination" (mozhao)

**Reading:**  
- Chun-fang Yü, "Ta-hui Tsung-kao and Kung-an Ch'an" [Moodle]  
- Ta-hui (Dahui), Talks and letters [Moodle]  
- Morten Schlütter, "Silent Illumination and the Caodong Tradition" [Moodle]

9 Mar 24-28  **Zen in Japan**  
Film: "Land of the Disappearing Buddha"

**Monday: Paper 1 due by 4:30**

**Reading:**  
- Kraft, *Zen*: chs. 8 (Yampolsky), 9 (Foulk)  
- Dale S. Wright, "Rethinking Ritual Practice in Zen Buddhism"
10 Mar 31-Apr 4  Dōgen (1200-1254)  
Literary Zen  
Shikan-taza (just sitting)  
Film: "Eiheiji" (Dōgen's monastery)  
Reading:  
❖ Addiss, Zen Sourcebook: ch. 17  
❖ Dōgen, "Instructions for the Cook," trans. T. Griffith Foulk (Introduction, Translation, and Notes) [Moodle]  
❖ Francis H. Cook, Sounds of Valley Streams (excerpt) [Moodle]

11 Apr 7-11  Sōtō Zen practice  
Women in Zen  
Reading:  
❖ Dragon-girl story (Lotus Sutra) [Moodle]  
❖ Goddess story (Vimalakirti Sutra) [Moodle]  
❖ Dōgen, "Getting the Marrow by Doing Obeisance" [Moodle]  
❖ Addiss, Zen Sourcebook: ch. 18  

12 Apr 14-18  Hakuin (1686-1769) and Rinzai Zen practice  
The kōan  
Film: "Principles and Practices of Zen"  
Reading:  
❖ Addiss, Zen Sourcebook: ch. 24  
❖ Kraft, Zen: chs.3 (Kapleau), 4 (Eido), 5 (Low)  
❖ Gary Snyder, "Spring Sesshin at Shokoku-ji" [Moodle]  
❖ Roshi Philip Kapleau, The Three Pillars of Zen (excerpts) [Moodle]
13 Apr 21-25  **Zen poetry and art**

**Monday: Quiz 2**

**Reading:**
- Kraft, *Zen*: ch. 6 (Watson)
- Addiss, *Zen Sourcebook*: chs. 19, 21, 25
- *Haiku* by Bashō [*handout*]
- The Ten Oxherding Pictures [*Moodle*]
- Diane Divelbess, "Zen and Art" [*Moodle*]

14 Apr 28-May 2  **Zen in America**

**Film:** "Zen Center"

**Reading:**
- Kraft, *Zen*: ch. 10 (Kraft), and Epilogue (Collcutt)
- Richard Seager, "Zen and its Flagship Institutions" [*Moodle*]
- G. Victor Sogen Hori, "Japanese Zen in America: Americanizing the Face in the Mirror" [*Moodle*]
- Interview with Prof. Jimmy Yu (Guo Gu) [*Moodle*]

**Recommended:** Rick Fields, *How the Swans Came to the Lake*: A Narrative History of Buddhism in America: 135-140, 168-272

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**Final exam:**
Tuesday, May 6,
7:30-8:30 p.m.

**Paper 2 due:**
Thursday, May 8,
4:30 p.m.