

## Religious Studies 360 ZEN BUDDHISM

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**Spring 2014**  
MWF 2:10-3:00 (Per. 7)  
Ascension 125  
Office hours: MWF 3:10-4, T 2-4  
and by appointment

- [Links](#)
- [Selected handouts / readings](#)
- [Paper format guide](#)
- [Paper criteria](#)

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*
- John R. McRae, *Seeing Through Zen: Encounter, Transformation, and Genealogy in Chinese Chan Buddhism*
- 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

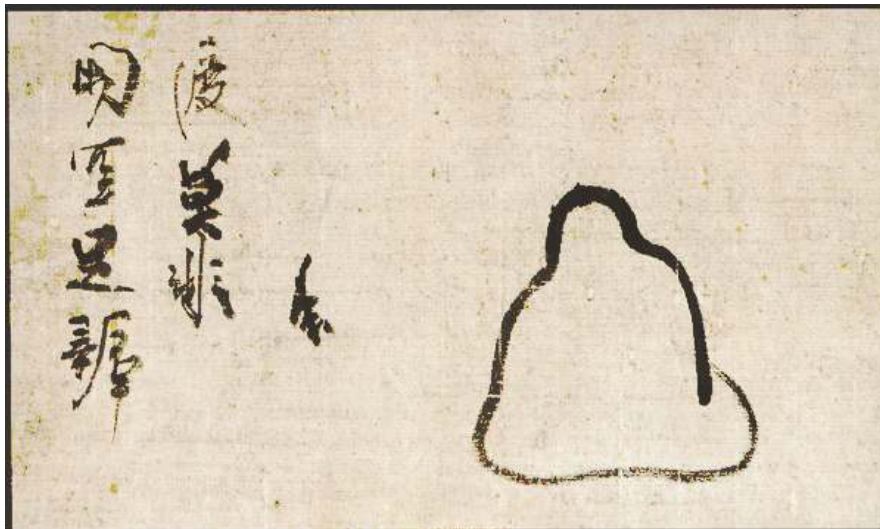
D: Too many absences AND too little contribution

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](mailto: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.



Meditating Daruma, by Nobutada (1565-1614)

## COURSE SCHEDULE

1 Jan 13-17

### What is Zen?

Overview of Buddhist history

One Buddhist monk: Morinaga S k

- 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 Tinly Rinpoche, "The Prajñā p ramit " [Moodle]  
 ❖ Addiss, *Zen Sourcebook*: ch. 1

3 Jan 27-31

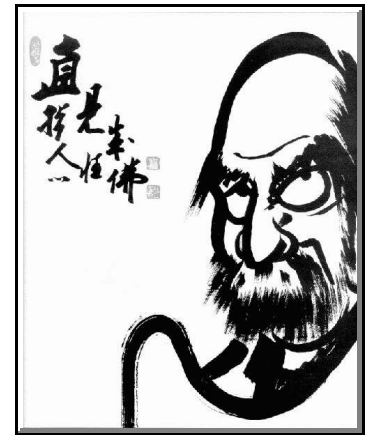
### Proto-Chan (6<sup>th</sup> c.)

Foundation myths

Bodhidharma

Monday: Take-home essay due

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



Bodhidharma, by Hakuin  
(Japan, 18<sup>th</sup> century)



The 6<sup>th</sup> Patriarch Chopping  
Bamboo, by Liang Kai  
(China, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century)

4 Feb 3-7 **Early Chan (7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> c.)**  
**Huineng and the Platform Sutra**

- Reading:** ❖ McRae, *Seeing Through Zen*:  
 ch. 3  
 ❖ Addiss, *Zen Sourcebook*, ch. 4  
 ❖ *The Platform Sutra* [Moodle]



The 6<sup>th</sup> Patriarch Tearing up  
Sutras, by Liang Kai

5 Feb 10-14 **Middle Chan (8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> 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]

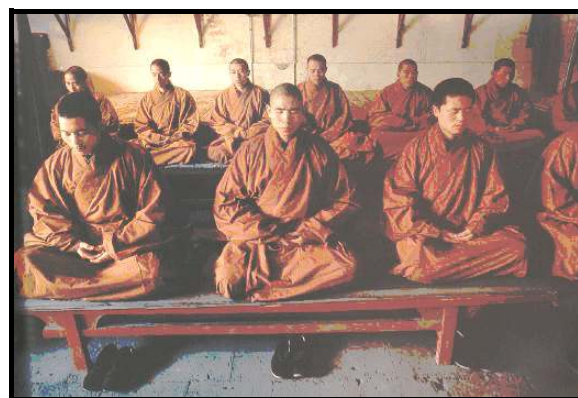
6 Feb 17-21 **Mature Chan / Song dynasty (10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> c.)**

- 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]  
 ❖ John Daishin Buksbagen, *To Forget the Self: An Illustrated Guide to Zen Meditation*, excerpt [Moodle]  
 ❖ Zongze, "Principles of Seated Meditation (*zuochan*)"



Chan monks meditating at Fayuan monastery, Beijing

<< 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

## D gen (1200-1254)

Literary Zen

*Shikan-taza* (just sitting)

**Film:** "Eiheiji" (D gen's monastery)

- Reading:**
- ❖ Addiss, *Zen Sourcebook*: ch. 17
  - ❖ D gen, "Instructions for the Cook," trans. T. Griffith Foulk (Introduction, Translation, and Notes) [Moodle]
  - ❖ Francis H. Cook, *Sounds of Valley Streams* (excerpt) [Moodle]



D gen

11 Apr 7-11

## S t Zen practice

Women in Zen

- Reading:**
- ❖ Dragon-girl story (*Lotus Sutra*) [Moodle]
  - ❖ Goddess story (*Vimalakirti Sutra*) [Moodle]
  - ❖ D gen, "[Getting the Marrow by Doing Obeisance](#)" [Moodle]
  - ❖ Addiss, *Zen Sourcebook*: ch. 18
  - ❖ Paula K. Arai, "[S t Zen Nuns in Modern Japan: Keeping and Creating Tradition](#)" [Moodle]

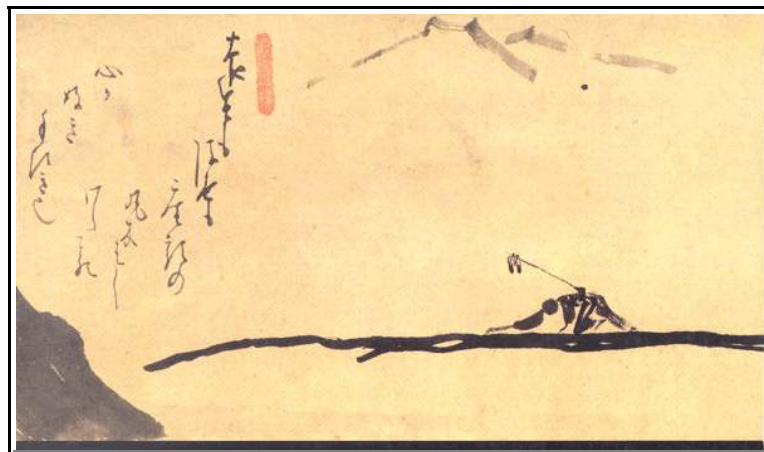
12 Apr 14-18

## Hakuin (1686-1769) and Rinzai Zen practice

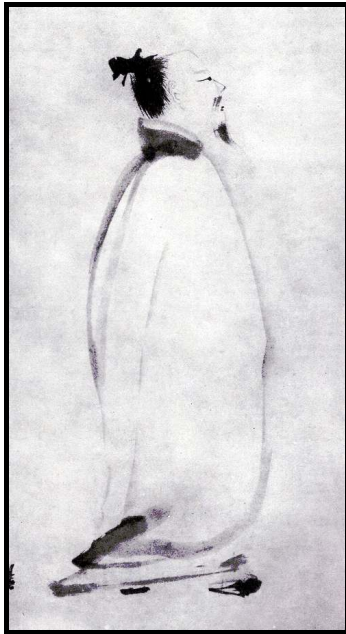
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**Film:** "Principles and Practices of Zen"

- 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]



Blind Man Crossing Bridge, by Hakuin



Li Bo Walking and Chanting a Poem, by Liang Kai

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

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

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

