

## 【Course Description】

This course examines the religious, political, and cultural significance of Buddhism in modern Asia, with a particular focus on Japan. We will first survey Japan's religious history and traditions. Then we will focus on recent issues facing Buddhist communities in modern society. Specific topics will include religion and nationalism, gender issues in modern temple practices, the diffusion of consumer oriented prayer services and material culture, and religious violence.

## 【Class Goals】

Students will gain a solid understanding of East Asia's religious heritage, and develop critical perspectives on the impact of religion on modern Asian societies.

## 【Course Schedule】

- 【第1回】 Introduction to the course
- 【第2回】 Overview of Buddhism in Asia
- 【第3回】 Southern Buddhism
- 【第4回】 Mahayana Buddhism
- 【第5回】 Overview of Japanese Religion
- 【第6回】 Sutra Readings/ Videos/Mahayana Buddhist Iconography
- 【第7回】 Zen Buddhism
- 【第8回】 Esoteric Buddhism
- 【第9回】 Jodo Buddhism
- 【第10回】 Shinto in Modern Japan; State Shinto
- 【第11回】 Short movie on Buddhist Mountain training
- 【第12回】 Buddhism in Modern Japan
- 【第13回】 The Role of Women in Modern Buddhism
- 【第14回】 Buddhism and Modern Medical Issues
- 【第15回】 Buddhism, and a Traditional View of Abortion
- 【第16回】 D.T. Suzuki and Orientalism
- 【第17回】 Whose Vision of Buddhism? H. Herrigel's depiction of Zen
- 【第18回】 Whose Vision of Buddhism? A Critical Review H. Herrigel
- 【第19回】 Nichiren Buddhism
- 【第20回】 New Religions in Japan
- 【第21回】 Movie "Fragment" Pt. 1
- 【第22回】 Movie "Fragment" Pt. 2 & Discussion
- 【第23回】 Buddhism and Violence
- 【第24回】 Engaged Buddhism
- 【第25回】 Buddhism in Pop Culture
- 【第26回】 Research Paper Presentations
- 【第27回】 Research Paper Presentations
- 【第28回】 Research Paper Presentations
- 【第29回】 Research Paper Presentations
- 【第30回】 Concluding discussion

## 【Preparation for Class】

All students are expected to read beforehand the materials required for each class, and all should take notes of classroom discussions. Writing assignments will also be submitted at the start of class.

## 【Review of Class】

We will cover many issues in class that are not always present in the readings. Therefore, students should periodically review their notes. Furthermore, this course will require a final research paper, and students will be expected to do that work simultaneously with the weekly readings.

## 【Remarks for Class】

This class is reading and writing intensive. All students should have the language skills required for a third-year course in an American or UK university.

We will also have an required field trip on April 22 to Enoshima.

## 【Texts】

Readings will be available in the library, or via the university's online course site.

## 【Reference Books】

Readings will be in the library, or via the university's online course site.

## 【Evaluation Criteria】

Class Participation, including in class worksheets, etc.: 40%

Five Quizzes: 25%

Final Project Presentation: 5%

Final Project: 30%

## 【Related URL】

There is an elearning site for this class that will be available once you register.

## 【Notes】

This syllabus is tentative. The final version will be handed out in class, and put on the course's elearning site.