

## 【Course Aim】

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.

## 【Contents of Course】

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.

## 【Course Schedule】

- 【第1回】 Introduction to the course
- 【第2回】 Overview of Buddhism in Asia 1
- 【第3回】 Overview of Buddhism in Asia 2 : sutras & Buddhist images
- 【第4回】 Zen
- 【第5回】 Esoteric Buddhism
- 【第6回】 Pure Land and Nichiren Buddhism
- 【第7回】 Religion in Modern Japan
- 【第8回】 Shinto fundamentals and Buddhist Shinto Syncretism
- 【第9回】 State Shinto in Modern Japan (Nelson movie on the Yasukuni Shrine)
- 【第10回】 Buddhism in Modern Japan;
- 【第11回】 Movie: Itami Juzo's "Ososhiki"
- 【第12回】 Movie: Itami Juzo's "Ososhiki" and discussion
- 【第13回】 Issues facing modern temple practices
- 【第14回】 Nuns, and the Role of Temple Wives
- 【第15回】 New Religious Movements
- 【第16回】 The Year of the Monkey: Meanings of Monkeys in Japanese Religion
- 【第17回】 Buddhist Elements in modern Anime
- 【第18回】 Whose Vision of Buddhism? H. Herrigel's depiction of Zen
- 【第19回】 Whose Vision of Buddhism? A Critical Review H. Herrigel
- 【第20回】 Buddhism and Abortion:
- 【第21回】 A Rebuttal of Wm. LaFleur
- 【第22回】 Buddhist Nationalism and Violence
- 【第23回】 Buddhism and Non-Violence
- 【第24回】 Engaged Buddhism
- 【第25回】 Movie: Views of Thai Buddhist thinkers
- 【第26回】 UC student Research Paper Presentations
- 【第27回】 Summary for UC students
- 【第28回】 Research Paper Presentations
- 【第29回】 Research Paper Presentations
- 【第30回】 Concluding discussion

## 【Preparation / Advice】

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.

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.

## 【Texts】

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

## 【Reference】

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

## 【Grading】

Class Participation: 30%

Short writing assignments, worksheets, etc.: 45%

Final project: 25%

## 【Other】

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