Japanese Culture & Civilization:  
Buddhism in Theory and Practice

The University of Shiga Prefecture

October 3 - Dec. 5, 2012 (JCMU students)  
October 3 - Jan. 23, 2013 (USP students)

Course Description and Goals

This course, offered to undergraduates enrolled at either The Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU) or The University of Shiga Prefecture (USP), presents an introduction to, and an investigation of, specific topics in Japanese culture and society as formed by religious beliefs and practices, especially Buddhism. Classroom lectures and discussions will focus mainly on Buddhist concepts and ideals, both fundamental and those particular to Japan. Understanding particular religious practices will be heightened by a field study trip to Nishi-Hongwanji, a World Heritage Site in Kyoto and the central site of Jodo-Shinshu (Shin Buddhism), and also by a field study practicum meditation session at a Zen temple in Hikone. Ideals of Buddhist architecture, in particular the harmony of art and nature, will be revealed in a field study tour of two National Treasure Buddhist temples in the mountain heights of Shiga. A study tour to local manufacturers of Buddhist household altars will further deepen students’ appreciation of the functions and significance of Buddhist beliefs in daily life.

Food for thought will further be provoked by considerations of the evolving or changing nature of what Buddhist themes of enlightenment and the meaning of life and death mean to different generations, from the Meiji Era through the Showa War to today’s young people, as revealed in selected scenes from films and anime. Another lecture examines the development in Japanese society of particular human physical movements and postures.

The primary goal and learning objective of this course is to stimulate students to consider how and where Japanese culture and society have been affected by religion, especially Buddhism. This will be accomplished through classroom lectures and discussions, practical observations and investigations at several religious sites and one site manufacturing religious ritual objects, and participation in one major religious practice (silent sitting meditation). Upon completion of the course, students will have developed a deeper appreciation and knowledge of the fundamentals and the nature of certain aspects of Japanese Buddhism. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to observe and evaluate similarities and differences in people’s thought and belief conceptions and material lifestyles and environments.

Through attending classes regularly, participating in discussions actively, and engaging with the content of this course fully, both intellectually and through physical experiences, by the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following key items:

- What are the primary concepts, beliefs and ideals of Buddhism, and what did particular Japanese Buddhist leaders contribute to the religion
- Where can expressions of Buddhist thought be observed in Japanese lifestyles
- Other aspects of Japanese culture and society as they reveal themselves and become relevant to the students’ personal and academic lives
Course Schedule

*Classroom contact hours for JCMU students: 9 Lecture sessions @ 2h.30min. = Classroom Total 22.5 hours.
*Field Study contact hours: 4 sessions. 1 session @ 4 hours including 2+ hours lectures and discussion; 1 session @ 5 hours including 3+ hours lectures and discussion; 1 session @ 7 hours including 3+ hours lectures and discussion; = Field Study Total 21 hours including 12+ hours lectures and discussion. *Total = 43.5 hours for 3 credits.
*USP students attend classes only for the 3rd Period (i.e., from 1:10 to 2:40); the field trips are optional (as the times conflict with their other classes); assignments and evaluation are different from the JCMU section; completion of the course 15 classroom lectures @ 90min. = 22.5 hours receives 1 credit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location/Instructor</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| ①  | Oct. 3 Wed.| 1:10-3:40| A2-202 (Ishida)      | Class 1: October 3 Wednesday 1:10-3:40. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor  
Readings: Rahula What the Buddha Taught. Ishida The Seventh Step in This World of Dukkha. |
| ②  | Oct 10 Wed.| 1:10-3:40| A2-202 (Ishida)      | Class 2: October 10 Wednesday 1:10-3:40. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor  
Topics: Introduction to Mahâyâna Buddhism and Japanese Kamakura Buddhism (Part II). Shinran, the founder of Jodo-Shinshu or Shin Buddhism and Amida Buddha as the fulfilled body of buddha.  
| ④  | Oct. 17 Wed.| 1:10-3:40| A2-202 (Ishida)      |                                                                         |                                                                         |
| ⑤  | Oct. 19 Fri.| 1:00-6:00| Seiryoji Temple, Hikone (Ishida & Kuroda)  |                                                                         |                                                                         |
| ⑥  | Oct. 24 Wed.| 1:10-3:40| A2-202 (Ishida)      |                                                                         |                                                                         |
| ⑦  | Oct. 31 Wed.| 1:10-3:40| A2-202 (Kuroda)      |                                                                         |                                                                         |
| ⑧  | Nov. 7 Wed.| 1:10 – 3:40| A2-202 (Omoya)      |                                                                         |                                                                         |
| ⑨  | Nov. 14 Wed.| 1:10-3: 40| A2-202 (Ishida)      |                                                                         |                                                                         |
| ⑩  | Nov. 17 Sat.| 1:00-6:00| Butsudan Workshops, Hikone (Omoya)  |                                                                         |                                                                         |
Class 4: October 17 Wednesday 1:10-3:40. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor
Topics: Introduction to Mahâyâna Buddhism and Japanese Kamakura Buddhism (Part III). Dogen, the founder of Soto Zen Buddhism and sitting-meditation.

Class 5: October 19 Friday 1:00 - 6:00. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida and Suehisa Kuroda, Professors
Topic: Field study. Instruction in zazen sitting meditation at Seiryoji 清凉寺 a Soto Zen temple in Hikone, followed by a practice session of zazen. Also a visit to the attached Ryotanji 龍潭寺 Temple, the Family Temple of the Ii family, the former Lords of Hikone.
http://maps.google.com/?ie=UTF8&ll=35.282771,136.266459&spn=0.002886,0.005869&z=18

Class 6: October 24 Wednesday 1:10-3:40. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor
Topics: Introduction to Mahâyâna Buddhism and Japanese Kamakura Buddhism (Part IV). The Bodhisattva ideal in Mahâyâna Buddhism—Self-benefiting and benefiting-others.
Readings: Ishida Salvation for Oneself and Others. Ishida Nietzsche and Sansara.

Class 7: October 31 Wednesday 1:10-3:40. Instructor: Suehisa Kuroda, Professor
Topic: Transfiguration of pre-modern techniques of bodies in walking styles and postures and the meanings of their revivals today. *Reading Report due today by email.

Class 8: November 7 Wednesday 1:10-3:40. Instructor: Shinsuke Omoya, Professor
Topics: Post-war Japanese design. History and craftsmanship of Buddhist household altars in Hikone.

Class 9: November 14 Wednesday 1:10-3:40. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor
Topic: Time-Space Interformation in Eastern Philosophy, with emphasis on Buddhism and particularity and universality of world religions. (Part I)

Class 10: November 17 Saturday 1:00 - 6:00. Instructor: Shinsuke Omoya, Professor
Topic: Field study. Tour & Appreciation of craftsmen’s workshops making Buddhist altars in the vicinity of Hikone, including 4 hours lectures, explanations and discussion.

Class 11: November 21 Wednesday 1:10-3:40. Instructor: Walter Klinger, Associate Professor
Class 12: November 28 Wednesday 12:00 - 7:00. Instructors: Yoshiyuki Tomishima and Hoyu Ishida, Professors
Reading: Tomishima National Treasures of Japan: Shiga.
http://maps.google.com/?ie=UTF8&ll=35.183332,136.285245&spn=0.001445,0.002934&z=19

Class 13: December 5 Wednesday 1:10-3:40. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor
Topics: Time-Space Interformation in Eastern Philosophy, with emphasis on Buddhism and particularity and universality of world religions. (Part II) Course Wrap up: JCMU students present in class an outline of their final paper, followed by comments and discussion.
*Final class for JCMU students. *Final Paper and Reflection Paper due today by email in order to meet the JCMU deadline for submitting grades.

(*5 subsequent classes for USP students. Classroom A4-105.)
December 12 Wednesday 1:10-2:40. Instructor: Walter Klinger, Associate Professor

December 19 Wednesday 1:10-2:40. Instructor: Walter Klinger, Associate Professor
Topic: Japanese religion in film: Hoichi the Earless 耳なし芳一.

December 26 Wednesday 1:10-2:40. Instructor: Walter Klinger, Associate Professor
Topic: Japanese religion in anime: Princess Mononoke.

January 16 Wednesday 1:10-2:40. Instructor: Shinsuke Omoya, Professor
Topic: Modernization in everyday life—the development of household objects and tools in Japan.

January 23 Wednesday 1:10-2:40. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor
Topic: Course Wrap up.
Course Readings


Eades, Carla; Nishiyama Yuriko; and Yanase Hiroko. 2008. Introduction to Japanese Craftsmanship: Making A Hikone Butsudan. 9 pdf files.


Ishida Hoyu. 2010. “Genjōkōan”: Some Literary and Interpretative problems of Its Translation. Academic Reports of the University Center for Intercultural Education, the University of Shiga Prefecture (15), 1-18.

____. 2009. “Zazen-shin,” Admonition Concerning Sitting-Meditation. Academic Reports of the University Center for Intercultural Education, the University of Shiga Prefecture (14), 1-20.

____. 2007. The Seventh Step in This World of Dukkha: To Be in the World but Not of the World. Asian Humanities (Fall Issue), 151-162.

____. 2005. The Unity of Polarity in Shinran’s Religious Experience—That Which Is Empty and False & That Which Is Unsurpassed—. Academic Reports of the University Center for Intercultural Education, the University of Shiga Prefecture (10), 41-52.


____. 2003. Ontological Implications of Pure Land in the Contemporary World. Academic Reports of the University Center for Intercultural Education, the University of Shiga Prefecture (8), 15-28.

____. 2002. A Bodhisattva Ideal in the Here and Now. Academic Reports of the University Center for Intercultural Education, the University of Shiga Prefecture (7), 33-54.

____. 2001. Shinjin and Satori in the Here and Now—Flower Yet Fall As People Lament. Academic Reports of the University Center for Intercultural Education, the University of Shiga Prefecture (6), 43-68.

____. 1999. The Lineage of Zen: The Historian and the Believer. Academic Reports of the University Center for Intercultural Education, the University of Shiga Prefecture (4), 65-78.


*especially: Chapter 1: Temples & Monastic Complexes (Japan), Chapter 7: Meditation (Japan), Chapter 14: Death & Beyond (Japan).


Assignments
25% - Reading Report: Each student should submit a three-page review/commentary on one or more of these ten readings:

Rahula What the Buddha Taught *excerpt: Chapters 2-5.
Ishida Genjôkôan.
Ishida The Seventh Step in This World of Dukkha.
Ishida Salvation for Oneself and Others.
Ishida Nietzsche and Samsara.
Ishida Otto’s Theory of Religious Experience.
Ishida Shinjin and Satori in the Here and Now.
Ishida Ontological Implications of Pure Land.
Ishida Zazen: Admonition for Sitting-meditation.

Due: October 31 by email to both Prof. Ishida at ishida.ho@shc.usp.ac.jp and Prof. Klinger at klinger.w@office.usp.ac.jp

*Please write “JCMU-USP Reading Report (Your Name)” in the Subject Line of your email.

40% - Final Paper: The Final Paper should be about 8 - 10 A4 double-spaced typed pages, covering a topic or topics relating to the readings, lectures or field trips. This paper is an academic research paper and is not for your personal evaluations, critiques, or comments about the course contents, the lecturers’ performance, etc. Students are encouraged to visit instructors during office hours or by appointment for further guidance.

The paper should be in computer file format and be submitted to the JCMU office and emailed to both Prof. Ishida at ishida.ho@shc.usp.ac.jp and Prof. Klinger at klinger.w@office.usp.ac.jp no later than December 5 at 17:00 (on the final lecture day) so that we can meet the JCMU deadline for submitting grades. *Please write “JCMU-USP Final &
Reflection Papers (Your Name)” in the Subject Line of your email. Papers found to have been plagiarized will be returned.

15% - Reflection Paper: The Reflection paper should be about 3 - 5 A4 size typed pages, and is due (December 5 at 17:00) together with the Final Paper. This paper may include personal reflections from your experiences in the field study trips, critiques comparing and contrasting Buddhism and Japanese religions with your own religious beliefs or lack thereof, comments about the value and effectiveness of the course content and the instructors’ services, etc. Papers will not be graded on whether the instructors agree with your opinion or not, but on your ability in presenting your comments and ideas in a thoughtful and well-organized style. Students who are uncomfortable about making personal statements or comments may instead submit an additional academic report of the same length on a topic different from the submitted Final Paper but still relating to the themes of this course.

20% - Class Participation: Participation is vital to the quality of this course. Instructors will make a distinction between attendance and participation. The latter means the student actively engages in discussions and with the material.

Attendance and Grading

Attendance: Two unexcused absences will result in a loss of half of the class participation grade (see above) making any grade higher than a “B” unlikely. Three or more unexcused absences will result in the total loss of the class participation grade making any grade higher than a “C” unlikely.

Grading Policy: Final grades will be calculated as follows. The Lead Instructor reserves the right to curve the final distribution if warranted.

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<tr>
<th>90-100%</th>
<th>4.0 A</th>
<th>85-89%, 3.5 A-/B+</th>
<th>80-84%, 3.0 B</th>
<th>75-79%, 2.5 B-/C+</th>
<th>70-74%, 2.0 C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65-69%</td>
<td>1.5 C-/D+</td>
<td>60-64%, 1.0 D/D-</td>
<td>Below 60, 0.0 Fail</td>
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Make-up Policy and Late Assignments: An official medical note or a written excuse from the JCMU Resident Director are the only circumstances considered as excused absences for which make-up quizzes will be permitted or late assignments will be accepted. Make-up quizzes may be different from the original given in class. Instructors reserve the right to give partial credit for writing assignments submitted late.

Additional Information

Academic Integrity: All institutions of higher education, including the University of Shiga Prefecture, the Japan Center for Michigan Universities, and each of your home institutions have statements and policies regarding Academic Integrity. You are responsible for knowing and conforming to these. Be aware that cheating of any kind is ground for a failing course grade as well as any other institutional action that may be warranted. Plagiarism (which includes paraphrasing material but not citing it) is considered a violation of the standards of academic integrity.
Course Changes: The scheduling and contents of this syllabus are tentative and subject to change. Any changes will be announced as early as possible. Instructors reserve the right to assign additional short readings or other assignments as appropriate. Any significant change to the course will be discussed with the class prior to implementing the change.

Classroom Etiquette: Students are expected to maintain the highest levels of respect for their classmates and course instructors. This respect includes being considerate during lectures and discussions as well as respecting others time by being on time for course meetings. Tardiness or lack of consideration in other ways will influence your course participation grade. All participants must observe the regulations of the temples on the Field Studies, including regulations about alcohol consumption and offensive behavior.

Dropping the Course: Students who begin the course are expected to complete it. Dropping the course due to extenuating circumstances is possible but only in accordance with the policies of JCMU and your home institution.

Special Consideration: Students needing special consideration due to disability should work with the JCMU Resident Director and their home institution’s office of disability services to obtain the proper documentation to be granted special consideration.

Studying for this Class: If you wish to learn from this class, come to class having read the day’s assignments. Lectures and field trips will make much more rewarding if you are prepared. Review your lecture notes after each class and clarify any unclear material. Come to each class with any questions you need answered concerning the lecture notes or your reading notes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead Instructor:</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
<th>Office Telephone</th>
<th>Office Number &amp; Office Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hoyu ISHIDA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ishida.ho@shc.usp.ac.jp">ishida.ho@shc.usp.ac.jp</a></td>
<td>0749-28-8253</td>
<td>A1-102 W3:40-4:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor of Religion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>or anytime upon request</td>
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<tr>
<th>Guest Instructors:</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Office &amp; Office Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suehisa KURODA</td>
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<td>8435</td>
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<td>8257</td>
<td>A1-107 W4:30-6:00</td>
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<td>Yoshiyuki TOMISHIMA</td>
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<td>8273</td>
<td>B2-307 W4:30-6:00</td>
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