Japanese Culture & Civilization:
Buddhism in Theory and Practice

At The University of Shiga Prefecture    Oct. 7 – Dec. 16  2009

Course Description and Goals

This course, offered to both JCMU and USP students, presents an introduction to and an investigation of specific topics in Japanese culture and society as formed by religious beliefs and practices, especially Buddhism. We will start with classroom lectures and discussions of Buddhist concepts and ideals both fundamental and those particular to Japan. Understanding particular religious practices will be heightened by a field study trip to the World Heritage Site, Nishi-Hongwanji, in Kyoto, the main site of Jodo-Shinshu (Shin Buddhism), and a field study practicum meditation session at a local Zen temple. 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 mountain fastnesses. Another study tour to a local manufacturer of household Buddhist altars will further deepen students’ appreciation of the functions and significance of Buddhist beliefs in daily life.

We will also examine the development in Japanese society of particular human physical movements and postures and the development of particular household and consumer items. 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.

The primary goal and learning objective of this course is to stimulate students to consider carefully and critically 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 Japanese culture, society and religion. 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 material and 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 Japanese Buddhism
- Where can manifestations of Buddhism be observed in Japanese culture
- Other specific aspects of how Japanese culture and society is shaped
Course Schedule

*Classroom contact hours: 10 Lecture sessions @ 2h20min. = Class Total 24 hours. *Field Study contact hours: 1 session @ 12:00-17:00 = 5 hours including 2+ hours lectures and discussion; 1 session @ 13:00-17:00 = 4 hours including 2+ hours lectures and discussion; 1 session @ 13:00-19:00 = 6 hours including 3+ hours lectures and discussion; 1 session @ 13:00-19:00 = 6 hours including 3+ hours lectures and discussion; = Field Study Total 21 hours including 10+ hours lectures and discussion. *Total = 45 hours for 3 credits.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<td>②</td>
<td>Oct 14 Wed</td>
<td>1:10-3:30</td>
<td>A2-202</td>
<td>Class 2: October 14 Wednesday 1:10-3:30. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor Topic: Introduction to Mahâyâna Buddhism and Japanese Kamakura Buddhism (Part II). The Bodhisattva ideal in Mahâyâna Buddhism—Self-benefiting and benefiting-others. Reading: Ishida Shinjin and Satori in the Here and Now—Flowers Yet Fall As People Lament—.</td>
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<td>Nov 4 Wed</td>
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<td>⑦</td>
<td>Nov 6 Fri</td>
<td>1:00-5:00</td>
<td>Zazen at Seiryoji, Hikone</td>
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<td>⑧</td>
<td>Nov 11 Wed</td>
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<td>⑨</td>
<td>Nov 18 Wed</td>
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<td>⑩</td>
<td>Nov 25 Wed</td>
<td>1:00-7:00</td>
<td>Saimyoji, Shiga</td>
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<td>⑪</td>
<td>Nov 28 Sat</td>
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<td>Hikone Butsudan</td>
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<td>⑫</td>
<td>Dec 2 Wed</td>
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<td>⑬</td>
<td>Dec 9 Wed</td>
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<td>⑭</td>
<td>Dec 16 Wed</td>
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Class 5: October 28 Wednesday 1:10-3:30. Instructor: Walter Klinger, Associate Professor


Class 6: November 4 Wednesday 1:10-3:30. Instructor: Suehisa Kuroda, Professor

Topic: Transfiguration of pre-modern techniques of bodies in walking styles and postures and the meanings of their revivals today. *Take-home non-credit quiz based on Prof. Kuroda’s class.

Class 7: Nov 6 Fri 1:00 –5:00. Instructors: Suehisa Kuroda and Hoyu Ishida, Professors.

Topic: Field study. Meet by the ticket counter of Ryotanji Temple. Tour of Ryotanji, the Family Temple of the Ii Family, the former Lord of Hikone. Instruction in zazen at Seiryoji, a Rinzai Sect Zen Temple, followed by zazen sitting meditation.

http://www.mapfan.com/m.cgi?MAP=E136.16.7.5N35.16.46.0&ZM=9

Class 8: November 11 Wednesday 1:10-3:30. Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor

Topic: Introduction to Mahâyâna Buddhism and Japanese Kamakura Buddhism (Part IV). Dogen, the founder of Soto Zen Buddhism and sitting-meditation.


Class 9: November 18 Wednesday 1:10-3:30. Instructor: Shinsuke Omoya, Professor

Topic: Modernization in everyday life—the development of household objects and tools in Japan.


Class 10: November 25 Wednesday 1:00-7:00. Instructors: Yoshiyuki Tomishima, Associate Professor, and Hoyu Ishida, Professor

Topic: Field study at Saimyôji (a national treasure Buddhist temple) and Kongôrinji in Shiga, including 3 hours lectures and discussion group on Buddhism in temple architecture and Buddhism and Nature.

Reading: Tomishima National Treasures of Japan.
Class 11: November 28 Saturday (1:00-6:00). Instructor: Shinsuke Omoya, Professor

Topic: Field study at craftsmen’s workshops making Buddhist altars in the vicinity of Hikone, including 3 hours lectures. Reading: Eades *Houses of Everlasting Bliss*. Eades *Making a Hikone Butsudan*.

Class 12: December 2 Wednesday 1:10-3:30 Instructor: Shinsuke Omoya, Professor

Topic: Modernization in everyday life—the development of household objects and tools in Japan (Part II). *Quiz based on Prof. Omoya’s lectures.*

Class 13: December 9 Wednesday 1:10-3:30. Instructor: Walter Klinger, Associate Professor


Class 14: December 16 Wednesday 1:10-3:30 Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor

Topic: Time-Space Interformation in Eastern Philosophy, with emphasis on Buddhism and particularity and universality of world religions. Course Wrap up: Students present in class an outline of their final paper, followed by comments and discussion. *Fall Semester Papers (Final Paper and Reflection Paper) due by December 18 in order to meet the JCMU deadline.*

Reading: Ishida *A Bodhisattva Ideal in the Here and Now*.

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**Course Readings**

*This syllabus and the course readings are available for download from [http://www.ice.usp.ac.jp/~wklinger/class/jcmu/CourseReadings.html](http://www.ice.usp.ac.jp/~wklinger/class/jcmu/CourseReadings.html)*

*Most books are listed with their USP library call number.*

*The mailing list for the course is at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/usp-jcmu/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/usp-jcmu/). Please join that group to keep informed about class changes, etc.*

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Ishida Hoyu. 2009. “Zazen-shin,” *Admonition Concerning Sitting Meditation 2.* (pre-publication)


____. 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.


____. 1996. The Problem of Practice in Shen-Hui’s Teaching of Sudden Enlightenment. *Academic Reports of the University Center for Intercultural Education, the University of Shiga Prefecture* (1), 51-64.


Tomishima Yoshiyuki. 1998. 『日本の国宝 80号 滋賀／西明寺金剛輪寺』週刊朝日百科 (Weekly Asahi Encyclopedia of the National Treasures of Japan Vol 80 Shiga: (Saimyouji, Kongorinji, etc.). *English vocabulary glosses by Prof. Ishida.*

*Reference Texts & Extra Readings:*


**Assignments**

35% - **Final Paper:** The Final Paper should be about 8 to 10 A4 double-spaced typed pages, covering a topic or topics raised in 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 submitted to the JCMU office and emailed to both Prof. Ishida at ishida-h@ice.usp.ac.jp and Prof. Klinger at wklinger@ice.usp.ac.jp no later than December 18 in order to meet the JCMU deadline. The Subject Line of your email should be “JCMU-USP Final Paper (Your Name).” Papers found to be plagiarized will be returned.

15% - **Reflection Paper:** The Reflection paper should be about 3 to 5 A4 size typed pages, and is due together with the Final Paper. This paper may include personal reflections from experiences in the field studies, personal critiques comparing and contrasting Buddhism and Japanese religions with your own religious beliefs (or lack of them), comments about the course content and instructors’ lessons, etc. Papers will not be graded on whether the instructors agree with your opinion or not, but on your ability in presenting your comments in a thoughtful and well-organized style. Students who are uncomfortable about making personal statements or revelations 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% - **Reading Report:** Each student should submit a two- to three-page review/commentary on one or more of these five readings: **Ishida** Nietzsche and Samsara. **Ishida** Otto’s Theory. **Ishida** Shinjin and Satori in the Here and Now. **Rahula** *What the Buddha Taught.* **Suzuki** *Zen and Japanese Culture.* Due: Oct.28 by email to both Prof. Ishida at ishida-h@ice.usp.ac.jp and Prof. Klinger at wklinger@ice.usp.ac.jp *the Subject Line of your email should be “JCMU-USP Reading Report (Your Name).”

10% - **Quiz:** One quiz will be given during class time, December 2. The quiz will cover topics from Prof. Omoya’s readings and lectures. The format will be multiple-choice, true-false, and/or short answer questions.
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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<td>70-74: B-</td>
<td>65-69: C+</td>
<td>60-64: C</td>
<td>Below 60: D (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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<tr>
<th>Lead Instructor:</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Office &amp; Office Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hoyu ISHIDA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ishida-h@ice.usp.ac.jp">ishida-h@ice.usp.ac.jp</a></td>
<td>0749-28- 8253</td>
<td>A1-102 W3:30-4:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor of Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructors:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suehisa KURODA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skuroda@shc.usp.ac.jp">skuroda@shc.usp.ac.jp</a></td>
<td>0749-28- 8412</td>
<td>D1-208 W3:30-4:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shinsuke OMOYA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:somoya@shc.usp.ac.jp">somoya@shc.usp.ac.jp</a></td>
<td>0749-28- 8435</td>
<td>D2-209 W3:30-4:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter KLININGER</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wklinger@ice.usp.ac.jp">wklinger@ice.usp.ac.jp</a></td>
<td>0749-28- 8257</td>
<td>A1-107 W4:30-6:00</td>
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<td>Yoshiyuki TOMISHIMA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ytomi@ses.usp.ac.jp">ytomi@ses.usp.ac.jp</a></td>
<td>0749-28- 8273</td>
<td>B2-307 W4:30-6:00</td>
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