Department of Religion  
120-001: Japanese Buddhism  
Spring, 2009

Instructor: Shigenori Nagatomo  
Place: Anderson AC3

Days and times of course meetings: T, TR 2:40-4:00  
Office address: Anderson 626  
Instructor's office telephone: 204-1749

Instructor's office hours: T, TR 11:45 – 1:00, or by appointment  
Instructor's e-mail address and website: snagatom@temple.edu; http://astro.temple.edu/~snagatom.

Guidelines about contacting the instructor: I will try to respond to your email in a timely manner if you have any serious question and concern about the course, but I will encourage you to talk to me before and after the class, and/or during my office hours.

Dates and times of any special sessions, field trips: No special sessions and field trips.

Prerequisites, co-requisites, or any special skills: No Prerequisites are required.

Disability Statement: This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Course Description:  
This course is an introduction to Japanese Buddhism, covering some of the major Buddhist figures such as Kūkai, Dōgen, Shinran, Takuan, and possibly Myōe, depending on the availability of a text. In order to understand how Japanese Buddhism accepted Indian and Chinese Mahāyāna Buddhism, the course traces some of the prominent conceptual frameworks of Mahāyāna Buddhism which were developed in India and China. The methodological orientation of the course is philosophical or intellectual.


Course Requirements:  
2 Exams:  
• You are required to take two examinations which test an acquisition of basic terminologies of Japanese Buddhism as well as an ability to organize ideas coherently and consistently.  
• A set of study questions will be distributed one week prior to an exam date.

Paper:  
• You are required to write one short paper (five pages, double-spaced, using font 12 of Times New Roman).  
• A topic for the paper must be approved in advance by the instructor.  
• To learn how your paper will be assessed, see Paper Evaluation Sheet.  
• You must submit your paper in hard copy in class on the due date indicated in the syllabus. Failure to submit by the deadline will constitute late submission.  
• Late paper will be penalized 5 points for each day late.
• Consult handouts available from the Writing Center at http://www.temple.edu/writingctr/student_resources/handouts_main.htm, including the handouts on citation (APA, Chicago, MLA documentation) at http://www.temple.edu/writingctr/student_resources/sr_citation.htm.

Course Policies:
This class meets twice a week. Students can expect 4 to 6 hours of preparation (reading, reflecting, preparing written assignments, reviewing notes, preparing for tests, etc.) per week.

• No incompletes will be given without a good reason.
• Late submission of exams and paper will automatically mean a 10% reduction of its original value.
• Make-up exam will not be given without a medical proof or a written proof verifying emergency.
• If you miss five classes you will automatically fail the course. This policy is strictly observed.
• Late arrival or early departure will be marked as equivalent to 1/3 of missing a class.
• Attendance will be taken at all classes.
• Bring the relevant reading material to class.
• You are expected to attend all classes fully prepared: complete the reading assignment for each class with written notes, and be ready to raise specific questions and discuss points about the assigned reading.
• If you encounter problem, don’t hesitate to discuss it with the instructor as soon as possible. Don’t wait too late!
• For other help: 1) with writing, make use of the Writing Center, 2) with personal confidence, go to Counseling Center (Sullivan Hall), 3) with complaints (fairness, grading, etc), see the instructor.

N.B. If you miss an exam without a valid excuse (illness, family emergency), you will receive a zero for this exam. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of your absence BEFORE the scheduled test.

Course Grade:
The course grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:
Class Attendance/Participation 15%
Exam 25%
Final Examination 30%
Written Paper 30%

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 - 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89 - 87</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>86 - 83</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82 - 80</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>79 - 77</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>62 - 60</td>
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Exam will be 100 minutes (one class period) in length and will consist of three to four parts; part I is given true-false format; part II sentence completion with a word bank; part III sentence completion without a word bank, and Part IV short answers. More detailed information will be provided in advance of each test. There will be two tests during the course of the semester.

The Final Examination will be 2 hours in length and will consist of the same kinds of activities and tasks represented on the test. More information will be provided by the end of the semester.

Other Policies:
Policy on Religious Holidays: If you will be observing any religious holidays this semester which will
prevent you from attending a regularly scheduled class or interfere with fulfilling any course requirement, your instructor will offer you an opportunity to make up the class or course requirement if you make arrangements by informing your instructor of the dates of your religious holidays **within two weeks** of the beginning of the semester (or **three days** before any holidays which fall within the first two weeks of class).

**Policy on Cell Phones:** Cell phones, pagers and beepers **must be turned off** during class except with special permission from your instructor.

**Attendance Policy:** As you can see from the Class Participation and Course Grading Formulas, attendance is very important to your success in this class. You will be excused your 3 absences in the course grading process, but no more. For every 3 absences beyond the first three absences, your course grade will be lowered by one letter grade (e.g., from B- to C+). Students with an emergency (e.g., death in the family, illness, automobile accident) may have an excused absence, but if such absences amount to more than 20% of class hours for the semester, students should consider the possibility of withdrawal from the class.

**Policy on Academic Honesty:**
Temple University believes strongly in academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism and academic cheating are, therefore, prohibited. Essential to intellectual growth is the development of independent thought and a respect for the thoughts of others. The prohibition against plagiarism and cheating is intended to foster this independence and respect.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, another person's assistance. Normally, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. It is the instructor's responsibility to indicate the appropriate manner of citation. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism.

Academic cheating is, generally, the thwarting or breaking of the general rules of academic work or the specific rules of the individual courses. It includes falsifying data; submitting, without the instructor's approval, work in one course which was done for another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own or another's work; or actually doing the work of another person.

Students must assume that all graded assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise noted in writing in this syllabus. I reserve the right to refer any cases of suspected plagiarism or cheating to the University Disciplinary Committee; I also reserve the right to assign a grade of "F" for the given paper, quiz or test.

**Required Texts:** (Can be purchased at Zavell)
*Kakuan, “The Ten Ox-herding Pictures.”
Takuan Soho, tr. William Scott Wilson, *The Unfettered Mind: Writings of the Zen Master to the Sword Master.*

N.B.: * indicates a hand-out.
Suggested Readings:
Hisao Inagaki, *Kūkai’s Principle of Attaining Buddhahood with the Present Body* (Kyoto: Ryūkoku University, 1975).

Tentative Schedule:

**Jan.**
20 Introduction.  
22 *Ten Ox-Herding Pictures*  
27 ditto  
29 *The Heart Sutra*

**Feb.**
3 ditto  
5 *Kūkai’s Major Works*, “Attaining Enlightenment in This Very Existence,” pp. 225-234. [Read the introduction to this work (pp. 1-100) on your own.]  
12 ditto, “The Precious Key to the Secret Treasury,” pp. 157-224  
17 ditto, “The Precious Key to the Secret Treasury,” pp. 157-224  
24 Review and Discussion  
26 Shinran, *Tannisho*, pp. 3-73.

**Mar.**
3 Shinran, *Tannisho*, pp. 3-73.  
5 Review and Discussion or Video  
17 1st Exam  
April
7 Review and Discussion or Video
9 Takuan, The Unfettered Mind, (to be announced).
14 Kawai Hayao, The Buddhist Priest: Myōe (to be announced).
16 ditto (to be announced).
21 ditto (to be announced). (paper due)
23 ditto (to be announced).
28 to be announced
30 to be announced