8300-001 Special Topics in Religion: Dōgen

Instructor: NAGATOMO, Shigenori          Office: Anderson Hall 649
Year: Fall 2010                            Office Phone: 204-1749
Time: T 2:00-4:30                          Home Phone: 610-645-5296
Place: AC 621                               Office Hours: T/R 11:30-1:00, 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 questions and concerns about the course, but I encourage you to talk to me before and after the class and/or during my office hours.
- When you call the instructor at home, please call after 10:30 a.m. and before 9:00 p.m.

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

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 focuses on a close reading of the Shōbōgenzō by Dōge Kigen (1200-1253), a medieval Japanese Zen Buddhist monk, who is considered by many as one of the foremost religious thinkers in Japanese intellectual history. It examines his writings from various angles such as philosophical, depth-psychological, and religious perspectives.

N.B.:
- Students who have had no previous exposure to Buddhism are strongly encouraged to glance through Walpola Rahula, What the Buddha Taught (New York, Grove Press, Inc., 1959) and Roger J. Corless, The Vision of Buddhism (New York, Paragon, 1989).


- When you call the instructor, try to call before 9 p.m. and after 10 a.m.

Course Requirements:
The student is required to write a substantial paper (about 20 pages using Time Roman font 12).
• Class participation and class presentation.

N.B.: A topic for class presentation must be approved in advance by the instructor. Each student is responsible for handing out an outline to the class before his/her presentation.

**Grading Policy:**
The final grade will be determined by averaging the points achieved for the above mentioned three areas. The grading scale is given below.

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**Required Texts**


- “Fukanzazengi,” in the *Eastern Buddhism*,
- “The King of Samadhis Samadhi,” the *Eastern Buddhism* pp.118-123.
- “Dōgen’s Bendōwa,” in the *Eastern Buddhism*, pp.1-34
Sakamoto Hiroshi, “The Voicing of the Way: Dōgen’s Shōbōgenzō Dōtoku,”

T.P. Kasulis, “Uji” (Being-Time) and “Shoaku makusa” (Do No Evil). (unpublished translation).


Suggested Readings
Abe Masao, A Study of Dōgen: His Philosophy and Religion.
Carl Bielefeldt, Dōgen’s Manuals of Zen Meditation (Calif.: The U of California Press, 1988)
Francis Dojun Cook, How to Raise an Ox (Calif.: Center Publications: 1978).

Tentative Schedule:
8/31 Introduction
9/7 Fukanzazengi
9/14 Bendōwa
9/21 Genjōkōan
9/28 Uji
10/5 Ikkamgyōju, Birth and Death, and Zenki
10/12 Buddha-nature
10/19 Mountains and Water Sutra
10/26 The Voicing the Way

11/2 Keisesanshoku
11/9 to be announced
11/16 to be announced (Draft Due)
11/23 Student’s Class Presentation
11/30 ditto

12/7 to be announced

Course Policies:
- Attendance will be taken at all classes.
- A late arrival or early departure will be marked as equivalent to 1/3 of missing a class.
- If you miss 3 classes you will face a 10% reduction of your total accumulated points.
- Late paper will automatically be reduced by 10% of their original value.
- Bring the textbook 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.
- For assistance 1) with writing, make use of the Writing Center; 2) with personal confidence, consult the Counseling Center (Sullivan Hall); or 3) with complaints (fairness, grading, etc), see the the instructor.
- No incompletes are likely to be given for this course. So, try to finish the course by the end of the semester.

Course Requirements
The student is required to complete 1) a term paper and 2) a class presentation.

- **Term Paper**: the student is required to write a substantial research paper (15-20 pages, double spaced, font size 12: Times New Roman or something comparable) on a topic reflecting his/her interest related to the course materials. If the length exceeds this limit, it will be an automatic reduction of the grade. A topic for the paper must be approved in consultation with the instructor. (The student may entertain several possible topics before consulting the instructor.) At the time of consultation, he/she is recommended to present to the instructor an outline of his/her possible topic. Before turning in a final draft, the student is expected to submit a working draft for the purpose of improving the quality of his/her paper. Please refer to Paper Evaluation for the criteria that are examined in grading the paper.

- **Class Presentation**: The student is given an opportunity to present to the class his/her ideas on a topic related to the course. The presentation consists of twenty minutes of delivery and twenty minutes of discussion. The presenter must hand out an outline to the class before the presentation.

Due Date:
- Paper Draft Due: Nov. 16
Grading Policy:
The final grade will be determined by averaging the points achieved for the term paper (70%), a class presentation (20%), and class participation (10%). The numerical scale is shown below. In addition, class attendance and participation in discussion are also considered toward the final grade.

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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 for 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.