Course Description:
As Buddhism spread from India, it encountered in China a highly developed civilization with its own indigenous traditions of philosophy and religious praxis. This encounter led to a flowering of new developments in the theory and practice of Buddhism. This course will explore a number of significant currents in Chinese Buddhist philosophy, including the transplantation and transformation of the Indian Madhyamaka and Yogacara schools, as well as the development of new approaches including the T’ien-t’ai, Hua-yen, Ch’an and Pure Land schools.

Course Requirements:
Weekly required reading assignments
5-10 page rough draft/outline of term paper (Due April 18)
15-20 page term paper (Due May 16)
Evaluation based on attendance & participation in class and final paper

Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments

I. Introduction (Jan 31 & Feb 7)

Jan 31: Contexts:  a. Philosophical Context: Taoism and Confucianism
                 b. Historical Overview of Chinese Buddhism

Feb 7: Transformation of Buddhism in China (and an overview of Indian Buddhism if necessary)


II. Indian Schools of Buddhism in China (Feb 14 & Feb 28)

Feb 14: Madhyamaka – Three Treatise School and Early Chinese Approaches to the Two Truths


Feb 21 – No Class: President’s Day

Feb 28: Chinese Appropriations of Yogacara and Tathagata-garbha

March 7: T’ien-T’ai Buddhism 1: Chih-i, Doctrinal Classification, One Vehicle, The Four Teachings


- or -


March 14: T’ien-T’ai Buddhism 2: The Two Truths, The Threefold Truth, the One Truth and No Truth


March 21 – No Class: Reading Week

March 28: T’ien-T’ai Buddhism 3: Teachings on Buddha Nature; The Six Identities


April 4: T’ien-T’ai Buddhism 4: The Four Samadhis; T’ien-t’ai in China after Chih-i


April 11: Hua-yen Buddhism 1: Hua-yen Doctrinal Classification


April 18: Hua-yen Buddhism 2: The Four Dharmadhatus


April 25: Ch’an Buddhism 1: Historical Overview; Foundation of Ch’an: The Platform Sutra

May 2: **Ch’an Buddhism 2:** The Record of Lin-chi; The development of Koan Literature


May 9: This class is being left open for now depending on the interests of the class. Possibilities include:

i) Tsung-mi as Hua-yen and Ch’an Patriarch: Further Developments of Hua-yen Doctrinal Classification and a Critique of Ch’an


ii) The Vinaya (monastic disciple) School


iii) Chan-jan & the Mid-Eighth Century T’ien-t’ai Critique of Hua-yen


May 16: Pure Land Buddhism in China


See “References for Further Reading” for additional articles, books, etc.

**Electronic Resources:**

Bibliographic references and links to many articles can be found here:

Digital Dictionary of Buddhism (limit of 5 entries/day; login: guest; password: guest):
http://www.buddhism-dict.net/ddb/

Searchable Taisho Canon Database (including the Japanese volumes):

Downloadable Taisho Canon (does not include the Japanese volumes, but does include the supplement):
http://www.cbeta.org/

Berkeley Library Catalog Search:
http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/