

# INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Title:** Works of Shinran IV: Tannishō  
**Course Number:** HR 8456  
**Semester:** Spring 2012  
**Instructor:** David Matsumoto  
**Units:** 3.00

### Description

- An examination of the Tannishō, a highly provocative and problematic Shin text, likely authored by Yuien, which has been acclaimed by some as an exemplar of the thought and religious experience of Shinran.
- This course will take a close look at a number of English translations of the work, in a comparative study with the original Japanese text. Important Japanese and Chinese terms in the original text will also be considered.
- This course is highly recommended for ministerial aspirants.
- Students will be expected to have familiarity with the Jōdo Shinshū tradition and Shin Buddhist thought and at least one year of college level Japanese language study (minimal level: ability to use character dictionary).
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of HR 1614 or HR 8140, or instructor's permission required.
- Intended audience: MDiv, MA, MBS, and PhD/ThD

### Student Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to delineate the structure of the Tannishō and engage in a critical examination of the doctrinal themes of the text.
- Students will be able to relate the doctrinal themes and issues set forth in this work to Shinran's perspective on the historical/doctrinal development of Pure Land Buddhist thought and practice.
- Students will gain a familiarity with the language and style of the original text.
- Students will be able to utilize certain doctrinal terms and concepts in Japanese that will facilitate their ability to engage in further academic study of Shin Buddhist thought.

### Class Format

- This will be an online class. Lecture materials, reading assignments, and homework assignments will be provided on a regular basis to all students through the GTU Moodle system, which can be accessed at <http://moodle.gtu.edu/>.
- Students will be required to submit writing assignments and participate in online discussion forums using the Moodle system as well.
- Each student must acquire a user ID and password from the registrar at his/her school in order to access the Moodle site.

- Each week we will closely read and examine one or more of English translations of the Tannishō, together with selected passages from the original Japanese work and other works by Shinran.
- Our examination will cover the text's historical and doctrinal context, structure, style of composition, place within the framework of Shinran's thought, and role in the development of Shin Buddhist thought.
- At the same time, we will focus on a number of doctrinal terms in Japanese to facilitate students' ability to conduct further academic study of Shinran's thought and to familiarize them with the exegetical method of *Shinshūgaku*.

## Requirements

Students will be required to do the following:

1. Read all assigned sections of the text carefully in English translation and identify the doctrinal issues discussed in them.
2. Identify significant doctrinal terms both in English and Japanese.
3. Participate fully in online discussion forums.
4. Write a research paper of no more than ten (10) pages on a topic that is relevant to this course and approved by the instructor. The paper should reflect students' familiarity with and understanding of the Tannishō. The paper topic must receive prior approval from the instructor. The paper will be due one week after the final day of class

## Grading

Grading is based on students' class attendance and participation in discussion forums (50% of grade) and final papers (50% of grade).

## Office Hours

Please call 510-809-1448 (office) or (510) 384-3818 (cell), or email at [drmatsumoto@shin-ibs.edu](mailto:drmatsumoto@shin-ibs.edu) to the instructor to make an appointment.

## Required Texts

A Record in Lament of Divergences, Tannishō, in Shin Buddhism Translation Series, *The Collected Works of Shinran*, Volume I (Kyoto: Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, 1997), 659, et seq.

Additionally, some of the following translations of or commentaries on the Tannishō will be made available during the semester by the instructor:

Toshikazu Arai, *Grasped by the Buddha's Vow: A translation of and commentary on Tannishō* (Berkeley: BCA Center for Buddhist Education, 2008).

Bandō Shōjun, trans. *Tannishō: Passages Deploring Deviations of Faith by Yuien* (Berkeley: Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai & Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 1996).

Alfred Bloom, *Strategies for Modern Living: A Commentary with the Text of the Tannishō* (Berkeley: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 1992).

- Ryukyo Fujimoto, *Shin Buddhism's Essence: The Tannisho-Prof. Ryukyo Fujimoto's Translation, with Extracts from His Writings as Commentary* (Los Angeles: Prof. Ryukyo Fujimoto, 1993).
- Dennis Hirota, trans. *Tannishō: A Primer* (Kyoto: Ryukoku University Translation Center, 1982).
- Eikichi Ikeyama, *Buddha & Man*, Toshikazu Arai, trans. (Honolulu: Buddhist Study Center, 1989).
- Ryukoku Translation Series II, *The Tannishō – Notes Lamenting Differences –* (Kyoto: Ryukoku University, 1962).
- Kemmyo Taira Sato, *Great Living: in the Pure Encounter Between Master and Disciple* (New York: American Buddhist Study Center Press, 2010).
- Shin Buddhism Translation Series, *A Record in Lament of Divergences, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, A Translation of the Tannishō* (Kyoto: Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji0ha, 2005).
- Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki, The Tannishō, in Eastern Buddhist Society, ed., *Collected Writings on Shin Buddhism* (Kyoto: Shinshu Otaniha, 1973).
- Taitetsu Unno, trans., *Tannisho: A Shin Buddhist Classic* (Honolulu: Buddhist Study Center Press, 1984).
- Kentetsu Takamori, *Unlocking Tannisho: Shinran's Words on the Pure Land Path*, Juliet Winters Carpenter, trans. (Torrance, Ichimannendo Publishing, 2011).
- The Tannishō Kenkyukai, *Perfect Freedom in Buddhism*, Shinji Takuwa, trans. (Tokyo: The Hokuseido Press, 1968).
- Tri-state Buddhist Temples, ed., Notes Lamenting Differences: Tanni sho, in *Shinshu Seiten: Jodo Shin Buddhist Teachings* (San Francisco: Buddhist Churches of America, 1978).

## Supplementary Texts in Japanese

### Primary Sources

- 『浄土真宗聖典—注釈版』京都:本願寺出版部、昭63年  
*Jodo Shinshu Seiten, Chushakuban, Vol. I* (Kyoto: Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, 1988).
- 『真宗聖教全書』巻二、京都:大八木興文堂、昭56年  
*Shinshu Shogyo Zensho, Vol. II*, (Kyoto: Oyagi Kobundo, repr. 1981).

### Commentaries

- 『わが歎異抄』三巻、暁鳥敏著、東京:潮文社、昭55年
- 『生死を超える道—歎異抄に導かれて』花田正夫著、東京:樹心社、昭56年
- 『歎異抄事典』林智康編、東京:柏書房、1992年
- 『私訳—歎異抄』五木寛之著、東京:東京書籍、2007年
- 『聖典セミナー歎異抄』梯實圓著、京都:本願寺出版社、1995年
- 『歎異抄』金子大栄著、東京:徳間書店、昭52年
- 『一道—よき人の仰せをこうむりて』榊原徳草著、東京:樹心社、昭56年
- 『歎異抄講義1』信楽峻磨著、信楽峻磨著作集、第4間、京都:法蔵館、2008年
- 『歎異抄講義2』信楽峻磨著、信楽峻磨著作集、第5間、京都:法蔵館、2008年
- 『歎異抄聴記』曾我深著、京都:真宗大谷派宗務所出版部、2008年
- 『歎異抄講話』梅原眞隆著、東京:明治書院、昭9年
- 『歎異抄と本願寺教団』梅原猛著、東京:小学院、1989年
- 『歎異抄に問う—その思想と展開—』矢田了章編、京都:永田文昌堂、2007年