

## **INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course:** Issues of Shin Buddhist Ministry in the West  
**Course Number:** HRCE 3014  
**Semester:** Fall 2013  
**Instructor:** Seigen Yamaoka  
**Units:** 3:00

#### **Description:**

- Explore the difficulties and direction of Shin Buddhist Ministry and Buddhist Chaplaincy in the West. Explore the historical development of Buddhism and Shin Buddhism within the context of the life process of the historical Buddha and Shinran.
- Through a person-centered process, explore ways and means to develop one's personal ministry /chaplaincy for the western context.
- To study and evaluate an educational process will be the core element of the course.

#### **Student Learning Objectives:**

- Students will become familiar with the works of the Buddha and Shinran from the perspective of an educational process found within the basic texts of Buddhism and Shin traditions.
- Students will be able to identify and discuss the primary features of the Buddhist and Shin traditions and its focus on a personal educational process as expressed in the traditions.
- Students will gain an introduction to the essential message of the teachings through a personal process connecting the doctrinal presentation of the workings of the teachings within their own life process.

#### **Class Format:**

- Lecture materials, reading assignments, and discussion.
- Students will be required to submit writing assignments and participate in discussing the written assignments.

#### **Requirements:**

- Read all assigned section of the texts and identify doctrinal issues.
- Apply the issues identified in relation to a personal process.
- Participate in discussion issues discovered.

#### **Written Assignments:**

- Students will be required to write a personal life process and identify the personal process in relation one's own development.
- Students will be required to apply the doctrinal teaching that supports the experience.
- Students will be required to write a research paper of no more than 10 to 20 pages which includes, the personal experience, the educational process, and the doctrinal support for that life process.
- Discuss the paper in class.
- Complete the paper and submit for grade.

**Grading:**

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

**Textbooks:**

- Yamaoka, *Transmission of Shin Buddhism in the West*
- Yamaoka, *The True Pure Land Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu and Introduction*
- *The Collected Works of Shinran, Vol 1. (Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha)*
- *Kyogyoshinsho, (Ryukoku Translation Series, V)*
- Mark Unno, *Buddhism and Psychotherapy: Across Cultures*
- *Buddhist Churches of America: a Legacy of 100 Years.*
- Jeremy Safran, *Psychoanalysis and Buddhism: An Unfolding Dialogue*
- James Dobbins, *Jodo Shinshu: Shin Buddhism in Medieval Japan.*
- James Dobbins, *Letters of the Nun Eshinni.*
- Tetsuden Kashima, *Buddhism in America: The Social Organization of an Ethnic Religious Tradition.*

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

- Weeks 1 to 5: An Introduction of the history of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu in America.
- Weeks 6 to 8: Introduction of an educational process framed within the Buddhist and Shin Buddhist tradition.
- Weeks 9 to 11: Presentation of the application of the educational process within one's own life process.
- Weeks 12-14: Presentation of the application of the educational process within one's doctrinal position.
- Week 15: Final wrap up and submitting of the final paper.