

HRHS 3074
History of the Shin Buddhist Tradition: the Modern Period
Spring 2014: Thursdays, 9:40 — 12:30

Instructors:

David Matsumoto

drmatsumoto@shin-ibs.edu

Office hours: tbd

Scott Mitchell

scott@shin-ibs.edu

Wednesday, 2:00 – 4:00

Course Overview:

This course will present an introduction to the Jodo Shinshu tradition in the modern period (1867-present), placing equal emphasis on Japanese history, Shin Buddhist diaspora, and current doctrinal trends, questions and controversies.

Student Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify the major events and doctrinal changes that have shaped Shin Buddhism over the last 150 years
- Students will be able to discuss current Shin Buddhist trends in terms of modernism and multiculturalism
- Students will be able to contextualize doctrinal changes within specific cultural and historical locations in Japan, the United States, and in conversation between the two nations

Required Texts:

There will be no required text; the instructors will provide a course reader.

Assignments and Evaluation:

In addition to participation in weekly class meetings, students will write a 10 – 12 page paper dealing with current issues in Shin Buddhist doctrine or practice (paper topics to be decided in consultation with the instructors). Each student will make a presentation based on this research during the last class meeting.

Evaluation (grading) will be based on weekly participation (50%) and the written assignment (50%).