HRHS 1518
Buddhist Traditions of East Asia

Spring 2015, Tuesdays 2:10 – 5:00 PM
Course Level: Introductory, Units: 3.0

IBS/JSC
Syllabus revised March 27th, 2014

Instructor: Charlie Pokorny - korin108@gmail.com
Office hours: by appointment

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

This course introduces the major historical and doctrinal developments in East Asian Mahayana Buddhism in China, Korea, and Japan, with an emphasis on the development of new traditions and forms of practice. This is the second half of the yearlong introductory survey of the entire Buddhist tradition.

Student Outcomes:

- Students will be able to describe some of the principle doctrines and practices associated with the major lineages and practice traditions of Buddhism that have developed in East Asia, including Tiantai, Huayan, Chan/Zen, Pure Land traditions, and esotericism, as they have manifested in China, Korea and Japan.
- Students will also be able to describe significant aspects of the history of Buddhism in East Asia, and significant features of the religion not subsumed under the major lineages and practice traditions.

No Required Texts – all reading assignments will be available online through Moodle.

Note on two texts listed in the syllabus

These two texts were required texts for the first semester of the two-class series, and some of you will have copies. If you do not have these, please let me know and I will upload electronic copies of the assigned selections to Moodle.

  [Referred to below as “Strong, The Experience of Buddhism.”]
  [Abbreviated below as “BIP.”]

GRADING OVERVIEW

Course Requirements:

1. Weekly required reading assignments.
2. Classroom attendance. Please check in with me when you will be unable to attend a class meeting. If you must miss more than two classes, it can affect your grade. Please check in with me about how you can make up for this.
3. Class participation. Please come to class prepared to make comments, raise questions and engage in discussion on the readings and lecture materials. I strongly encourage you to participate in class discussions. Asking questions can deepen learning opportunities for all of us. Questions and comments enrich and enliven the class for everyone.
4. Paper: three options (choose one): Term Paper, Temple Experience, or Book Reviews. In all cases, the paper will be on a topic related to the content of the course (please consult with the instructor to discuss a proposed topic).

Grading

- Classroom attendance and participation: 50%
- Paper: 50%
All papers should follow these guidelines:

- Please use 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1” margins, .5” indent for each new paragraph.

- **Papers must include reference works:** a minimum of five for the term paper option and two for the temple experience and book reviews options. Follow the *Turabian* citation style. Include a bibliography. These should be primary (original or in translation) or secondary (scholarly research) source materials (encyclopedia articles are tertiary sources and should not be counted as reference works, but can be included in bibliographies).

- All students must receive approval for their paper proposal by the end of reading week.

- Final papers are due the last week of class.

- Please email your papers in Word Doc format if possible to korin108@gmail.com. I will email them back to with comments (if you would rather turn in a hard copy, please check in with me first).

There are **three options** for the final paper.


1. **Term Paper**

   12–15 pages (no cover page, around 3200–4400 words)

   The paper should explore in depth a topic relevant to the course. Please choose a topic that concerns you deeply. The paper should include a clear thesis statement (the basic proposition you are putting forth), and support the thesis with relevant examples and arguments. It is important for your paper to be organized. The following format is suggested:

   a) Introductory paragraphs (identifiable and concise thesis statement, overview of supporting arguments or points),
   b) Body (supporting points, arguments, discussion of examples, citations, etc.),
   c) Conclusion (restatement of thesis, summary of main points).

   Your topic is up to you, but please email or speak with Charlie for approval of your topic by the end of reading week.

2. **Temple Experience**

   12–15 pages (no cover page, around 3200–4400 words)

   This paper is based on a visit to a temple in a tradition of East Asian Buddhism (Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese, Vietnamese or Japanese), taking part in services and/or performing an interview with clergy and/or attendees. The paper should clearly identify the lineage and its history, any important doctrinal issues for that lineage and clearly connect to material presented in the class. The remainder of the paper’s focus is up to you; for example, ministerial candidates may wish to focus on issues of chaplaincy, while those interested in ethnographic methods may wish to present a more sociologically informed paper. What continuities and discontinuities do you see between the Buddhism we studied in the class and the Buddhism at this temple? What issues are being faced by temples in the West? Please obtain permission from the temple to attend and report on the experience prior to visiting the temple, and please check with Charlie for the suitability of the site prior to the visit. If you are a practicing Buddhist, the temple experience should focus on a different tradition of Buddhism.

3. **Two Book Reviews**

   12–15 pages (no cover page, around 3200–4400 words)

   This paper involves reviewing two books in detail, devoting approximately 6–7 pages to each review. The books should deal with a subject pertinent to South Asian Buddhism and generally, should be scholarly publications. Please consult with Charlie about the books you would like to review. Ideally, the two books will complement each other. Critical engagement with the texts is essential. The review should:

   a) Summarize the book’s content
   b) Offer a critical evaluation of its strengths and weaknesses (What was most helpful, striking or valuable? What was unclear? Where was the argument strong or weak? What kinds of inquiry did the work open?)
   c) Make connections to what we have learned in class (through lectures, discussion and class readings)
SYLLABUS

Week 1 - February 3\textsuperscript{rd}

Introduction, Course Overview, Outline of Buddhist Traditions
The Silk Road and Buddhism in Central Asia

I. BUDDHISM IN CHINA (weeks 2 – 7)

Week 2 - February 10\textsuperscript{th}

The Encounter Between Indian Buddhism and Chinese Culture

Readings:


Optional Reading:


Week 3 - February 17\textsuperscript{th}

Buddha-nature; Historical Development to the Tang Dynasty

Readings:

• Hakeda, Yoshito. The Awakening of Faith. New York: Columbia University Press, 1967. Read 3–19 (the Introduction), and then spend some time (skimming or reading) with the translation of the text itself: 23–46.

Optional Reading:

Week 4 – February 24th

Chinese Buddhist Philosophy: Tiantai and Huayan

Readings:

Optional Reading:

Week 5 - March 3rd

Faith, Devotion, Worship, Magic and Miracles

Readings:

Optional Reading:

Week 6 - March 10th

The Chan School

Reading:
- Yampolsky, Philip. The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch. New York: Columbia University Press, 1967. 1–57 (this can be a bit technical, I recommend reading pages 1 – 3, 32 – 39, 47 – 57, and skimming the rest) and then please do read: 111–121 and 125–43.

Optional Reading:
Week 7 - March 17th

Pure Land Buddhism in China and Later Chinese Buddhism

Email or speak with Charlie regarding the topic for your final paper.

Reading:


Optional Reading:


March 24th - No Class, “Reading Week”

II. BUDDHISM IN KOREA (weeks 8 – 9)

Week 8 – March 31st

Buddhism in Korea through the Goryeo Dynasty

Readings:


Optional Reading:

Week 9 - April 7th

Korean Buddhism in the Joseon Era and Recent Developments

Readings:

- Lee, Younghee. “Hell and Other Karmic Consequences: A Buddhist Vernacular Song.” In Religions of Korea in Practice, 100–111.


Optional Reading:


III. BUDDHISM IN JAPAN (weeks 10 – 14)

Week 10 - April 14th

Early Japanese Buddhism and the State

Readings:


Week 11 - April 21st

Esoteric Buddhism(s) in Japan: Saichō and Kūkai

Readings:


Optional Reading:

**Week 12 – April 28th**

**Zen Buddhism**

**Readings:**


**Optional Reading:**


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**Week 13 - May 5th**

**Pure Land Movements and Nichiren**

**Readings:**


**Optional Reading:**


Week 14 - May 12th
Tokugawa, Meiji, the West

Readings:


Optional Reading:


Week 15 - May 19th
Student Presentations, Review and General Discussion

No Reading Assignment. Please work on your papers.
Please be prepared to give a brief (5–10 minute) presentation on your paper.
Course Evaluations will be completed towards the end of the class time.

* Papers Due by Friday May 22nd *
Please email your papers in Word Doc format if possible to korin108@gmail.com
I will email them back to you with comments (if you would rather turn in a hard copy, please check in with me first)