

HRHS 1518

Buddhist Traditions of East Asia

Spring 2016

Course times: Tuesdays, 2:10PM-5:PM

Location: JSC 131

Course Level: Introductory (Units: 3.0)

Instructor: Bruno Galasek, bgalasek@gmail.com

Course Description

This course constitutes the second part of the yearlong introduction to Buddhist traditions in South- and East Asia. It introduces the traditions transmitted to East Asia from India via Central Asia and the Buddhist schools and forms of Buddhism that subsequently develop in China, Korea, and Japan. This introductory survey will cover the history of the transmission of Buddhism to East Asia, the development of distinctly East Asian forms of Buddhism and their key doctrines, and introduce some of the protagonists of this transmission. An emphasis will be on reading samples in class of the most important foundational texts of East Asian Buddhist traditions in English translation followed by discussion.

Learning Outcomes:

- Acquisition of knowledge of the main Buddhist traditions that developed in China and through the course readings and active class participation
- Ability to describe major Buddhist traditions, differentiate their similarities and differences (continuities and discontinuities), and present and discuss Buddhist doctrinal content and ideas against the background of their historical developments-
- Familiarity with original specimens (in English translation) of East Asian Buddhist literature and with some important Buddhist terminology.

Course format: Lecture/Seminar

Required textbooks:

Note: Ideally I would like to use one textbook (+ additional readings) throughout the course: McRae, John. *East Asian Buddhism: A Survey*. London: Routledge, 2006. Unfortunately, this book is

currently unavailable (out of print). In the case that the new edition or reprint will not be available by the start of the spring semester, we will stick to the following syllabus and continue to use the Introductions that you have already purchased for the first half of the course:

- Gethin, Rupert. *The Foundations of Buddhism*. Oxford & New York: OUP, 1998.
- Harvey, Peter. *An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History and Practices*. Second revised edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013 (1st ed., 1990)
- Williams, Paul. *Mahāyāna Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations*. London: Routledge, 2009.

Further Textbooks:

- Mitchell, Donald W., and Sarah Jacoby. *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Poceski, Mario. *Introducing Chinese Religions*. London and New York: Routledge, 2009, chapters 5 and 6.
- Poceski, Mario. *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to East and Inner Asian Buddhism*. 2014.

Primary sources (in English translation):

- Samples of many primary sources that we will be reading can be found in Wm Theodore de Bary's *Sources of Chinese/Japanese tradition* (see bibliography below!) Other sources than the one's listed here will be made available to course-participants either electronically or as hard-copies during the semester.

Grading & Course Requirements

Course Requirements

1. Weekly Reading assignments and class participation; as a minimum requirement, please read through the chapters of the textbooks for each week and note questions and/or topics for discussion. Your questions, comments, and discussion topics contribute to the quality of the class and your learning experience.
2. Classroom attendance. You have a lot of obligations during term, but please keep in mind that missing more than two classes can affect your grade.
3. Papers. A longer end-of-term paper and a short essay on an experiential encounter with a East Asian form of Buddhism.
4. Students may be asked to prepare one short in-class presentation on topics of their choice.

Grading

- 50% Term paper
- 15% Attendance

- 15% Short presentation in class
- 20% Site Visit Paper

Term Paper: Due May 20, 2016

For the **term paper** choose any topic within Buddhist studies that is relevant to this course's topic: Buddhist Traditions of East Asia. You are free to explore and research an aspect of Buddhism of your liking/interest in the fields of Buddhist history, doctrine, ritual, meditation practice, or institutional history through the secondary, scholarly literature or in a primary source (Chinese, Korean, Japanese). Details: 12-15 pages; include a bibliography; papers must adhere to Turabian style citation (see Hacker, Diana, and Nancy Sommers. 2015. *A pocket style manual*. Boston: Bedford/St Martin's). **Topics of the proposed paper are to be submitted for approval after reading week either by email or in person.**

Midterm Paper: Site Visit Reflection Paper. (Due in Week).

The **reflection paper** (2-4 pages) is meant as a short, reflective essay that captures your personal experience of a Buddhist ritual, short retreat, temple visit, interview with a Buddhist priest, etc. If you practice a certain Buddhist tradition, please choose a tradition different from your own. A list of possible institutions to visit will be provided upon request (but also please check in with the instructor if you already have a site in mind that you would like to visit this semester!) In your essay, reflect on the differences (from the tradition you are familiar with or what we have studied in class) and on the idea of an "essence" of Buddhism pervading all Buddhist traditions. You may also wish to dwell a little on the question of how the *buddhadharma* you learned from the course readings relates to the lived reality of the practitioners, the institution or organization you plan to visit. Ideally, the first page or so of your essay presents what in anthropology is called 'participant observation', if what you plan is visiting a Buddhist ritual, ceremony, meditation session in a temple, etc. (For inspirations, see, e.g., Clifford Geertz: "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture". In: *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books, 1973. 3-30, might still be a good inspiration for that).

Course Schedule

Part 1: Buddhism in China

Week 1 (February 2, 2016): Orientation & Introduction; Buddhism in Central Asia and the Silk Road. Film.

Readings: Poceski 2014: 21-40.

Week 2: Buddhism comes to China. An Shigao, the Eastern Han and China's first encounters with (Central Asian) Buddhism.

Readings: Poceski 2009: 112-119; Sharf 2002: Introduction.

Additional Readings: De Bary 2002: ch. XII, pp. 272-287; Tremblay 2007.

Week 3: (1) Between the fall of the Han dynasty and the "Golden Age": Buddhist, Daoist and Confucian interactions. (2) Transition: Confucian critiques, canon formation and new translations (Kumārajīva, etc.)

Readings: Poceski 2009: 119-124; Poceski 2014: 43-49, and 340-361.

Additional Readings: De Bary 1999: Part II (excerpts, TBA)

Week 4: The "Golden Age" of Dharma: The development of the schools of Chinese Buddhism (zong) in the Sui-Tang Era.

Readings: Harvey ²2013: 213-216; Poceski 2014: 49-51; Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 222-232.

Week 5: Chinese Buddhist schools: The Tiantai school and the Saddharmapuṇḍarīka Sūtra (the 'Lotus Sutra').

Readings: Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 233-237; Poceski 2014: 125-145; Williams 2009: ch. 7.

Week 6: The Huayan school and the Avataṃsaka Sūtra.

Readings: Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 237-243; Poceski 2014: 145-166; Harvey ²2013: 145-149; Williams 2009: ch. 6.

March 20-26: Spring recess – No class!

- Submission of the topic of your Term Paper due in Week 7 -

Week 7: The Chan school

Readings: Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 243-250; Poceski 2014: 166-185.

Additional Readings: Sharf, Robert H. The Rhetoric of Experience and the Study of Religion. In: *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 7, No. 11-12, 2000, pp. 267-287; De Bary 1999: ch. 17, pp. 491-end of ch.

- Midterm Paper due -

Week 8: The Jingtū or Pure Land school

Readings: Poceski 2014: 199-221; Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 250-254; Gómez 1996;

Additonal Readings: De Bary 1999: ch. 17, pp. 481-491.

Week 9: Later developments from the Tang Dynasty to modernity

Readings: Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 254-272.

Part 2: Buddhism in Korea

Week 10: The Advent of Buddhism in Korea and Buddhism during the Silla Dynasty

Readings: Poceski 2014: 63-84; Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 275-284.

Week 11: Buddhism during the Goryeo Dynasty and later developments up to modernity

Readings: Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 284-293, and 293-307; Poceski 2014: 466-485.

Part 3: Buddhism in Japan

Week 12: Introduction; Buddhism during the Nara Period

Readings: Poceski 2014: 84-104; Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 309-314.

Additional Readings: De Bary 2001: 40-62, and ch. 5

Week 13: (Esoteric) Buddhism(s) in the Heian Period: Tendai and Shingon

Readings: Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 314-321;

Additional Readings: De Bary 2001: chs. 6, 7.

Week 14: Kamakura Period: Pure Land, Zen, and Nichiren Buddhism

Readings: Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 321-339.

Additional Readings: De Bary 2001: ch. 10, pp. 212-231, and ch. 14.

- Final Paper submission due -

Week 15 (May 20, 2015): Developments from the Muromachi Period to Modernity

Readings: Mitchell&Jacoby 2014: 339-354 (optional: pp. 355-361).

Additional Readings: Poceski 2014: 239-258.

Bibliography

General reference works in addition to the required textbooks listed above (Harvey, Gethin, Poceski):

Primary sources in English translation (I give the first edition. Newer editions may exist and are of course fine to use):

- Cleary, Thomas. *The Flower Ornament Scripture: A Translation of the Avatamsaka Sutra*. Boston: Shambhala, 1993.
- De Bary, William Theodore, Irene Bloom, et. al. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*. Vol. 1. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.
- De Bary, Wm. Theodore, Irene Bloom, et. al. *Sources of Chinese Tradition*. Vol. 2. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.
- De Bary, William Theodore, et. al. *Sources of Japanese Tradition*. Vol. 1. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001.
- De Bary, William Theodore, and Yoshiko Dykstra. *Sources of Japanese Tradition*. Vol. 2. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2006.
- Gómez, Luis O. *Land of Bliss: The Paradise of the Buddha of Measureless Light: Sanskrit and Chinese Versions of the Sukhāvativyūha Sūtras*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1996.
- Hurvitz, Leon. *Scripture of the Lotus Blossom of the Fine Dharma*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1976.
- Kern, Hendrik, and Friedrich Max Müller (ed). *The Saddharma-Pundarika or the Lotus of the True Law*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1884.
- Paul, Diana Y., and John R. McRae. *The Sutra of Queen Śrīmālā of the Lion's Roar. The Vimalakīrti Sutra / Transl. from the Chinese (Taishō Volume 14, Number 475) by John R. McRae*. Berkeley, Calif: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2004.
- Tremblay, Xavier. "The Spread of Buddhism in Serindia—Buddhism among Iranians, Tocharians and Turks before the 13th century", pp. 75-131. In: Heirman, Ann, and Stephan Peter Bumbacher. *The Spread of Buddhism*. Leiden [etc.]: Brill, 2007.
- Yampolsky, Philip. *The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1967.

Secondary sources:

- Ch'en, Kenneth K. S. *Buddhism in China: A Historical Survey*. Princeton, New Jersey: University Press, 1964.

- Sharf, Robert H. *Coming to Terms with Chinese Buddhism*. (Studies in East Asian Buddhism 14; Kuroda Institute) Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2002.
- Zürcher, Erik. *The Buddhist Conquest of China: The Spread and Adaptation of Buddhism in Early Medieval China*. 1, 1 & 1, 2: *Notes, Bibliography, Indexes Notes, Bibliography, Indexes*. Leiden: Brill (Repr., with additions and corrections), 1972 [1959].