

## HRPH 3242

### Topics in Buddhist Traditions of East Asia: Approaches to Kōan Study and Practice in East Asian Buddhism

Fall 2015, Mondays 2:10 – 5:00 PM

IBS/JSC

Instructor: Charlie Pokorny - korin108@gmail.com

Office hours: by appointment

Course Level: Introductory

Units: 3.0

Syllabus revised May, 2015. Some reading assignments will change.

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### OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

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This course will explore the Zen Kōan in Chinese, Korean and Japanese Buddhism. A kōan is typically a dialogue or saying that has been cited as exemplifying or embodying some aspect of awakening, practice or teaching. Kōans became the essential and most basic spiritual literature of the Zen tradition. They served as dynamic pivots for unfolding expositions of Zen practice. Using primary and secondary sources, we will examine the historical development of various forms of kōan literature, study, practice and teaching.

#### Student Outcomes:

- Students will be able to describe major approaches to kōan study and practice in China, Korea and Japan.
- Students will be able to frame these approaches in historical and doctrinal contexts.

#### Required Texts:

- Heine, Steven and Dale S. Wright, eds. *The Kōan: Texts and Contexts in Zen Buddhism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. [Referred to below as “THE KŌAN.”]
- Heine, Steven. *Zen Koans*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2014. [Referred to below as “ZEN KŌANS.”]
- Looi, John Daido, ed. *Sitting with Koans: Essential Writings on the Practice of Zen Koan Introspection*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2006. [Referred to below as “SITTING WITH KŌANS.”]
- Please note that additional required and optional reading assignments will be available online through Moodle. Please make sure you will be able to access Moodle.

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### GRADING OVERVIEW

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#### Course Requirements:

1. Weekly required reading assignments.
2. Weekly required writing assignments (these will be short and shared in class).
3. 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.

(continued)

4. 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.

5. Term paper (see below).

## Grading

- Classroom preparation (reading and writing), attendance and participation: 50%
- Paper: 50%

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## PAPER REQUIREMENT: GUIDELINES

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All papers should follow these guidelines:

- Papers should be about 15 pages in length. Please use 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1” margins, .5” indent for each new paragraph.
- **Papers must include a minimum of five reference works.** 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).
- Papers can focus on a single approach to kōan study or practice, on a single text, author or figure from the tradition, on a single kōan, on a debate or controversy within the tradition, and so on.
- 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).

# SYLLABUS

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## Week 1 – September 14<sup>th</sup>

### **Introduction, Course Overview, Major Themes and Concerns of the Course, What is a kōan? Ways to read a kōan**

## **I. FOUNDATIONS AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF KŌAN LITERATURE**

## Week 2 – September 21<sup>st</sup>

### **The Development of Chan: From the Sudden Approach to Encounter Dialogue**

#### **Reading:**

- Chung-feng Ming-pen. “The Definition of a Kōan.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 13–15.
- Heine, Steven. “Introduction: The Kōan Is My Kōan.” In *ZEN KŌANS*, 1–6.
- Heine, Steven. “Origins, Functions, and Modern Receptions of Kōans: Classic and Contemporary Perspectives.” In *ZEN KŌANS*, 7–35.
- McRae, John. “The Antecedents of Encounter Dialogue in Chinese Ch’an Buddhism.” In *THE KŌAN*, 46–74.
- Wright, Dale S. “Kōan History: Transformative Language in Chinese Buddhist Thought.” In *THE KŌAN*, 200–212.

#### **Optional Reading:**

- Heine, Steven and Dale S. Wright. “Introduction: Kōan Tradition–Self-Narrative and Contemporary Perspectives.” In *THE KŌAN*, 3–14.

## Week 3 – September 28<sup>th</sup>

### **The Development of Kōan Literature**

#### **Reading:**

- Cleary, Thomas and J.C. Cleary, trans. *The Blue Cliff Record*. Boston & London: Shambhala, 2005. [The PDF file on Moodle contains just the 100 stories or cases. The purpose of this assignment is to provide a glimpse of a good chunk of the raw material we are studying through the reading materials and classroom discussions. Do not be too concerned about understanding the stories, but do pay attention to the various dimensions of diversity we can see in this early collection.]
- Foulk, Griff. “The Form and Function of Kōan Literature: A Historical Overview.” In *THE KŌAN*, 15–45.
- Heine, Steven. “Developmental Stages and Rhetorical Strategies: A Historical Overview.” In *ZEN KŌANS*, 36–69.

### **Optional Reading:**

- Dumoulin, Heinrich. “Five Houses of Zen.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 41–73.
- Shūdō, Ishii. “The *Wu-men kuan* (j. *Mumonkan*): The Formation, Propagation, and Characteristics of a Classic Zen Kōan Text.” Translated by Albert Welter. In *The Zen Canon: Understanding the Classic Texts*. Edited by Steven Heine and Dale S. Wright. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Welter, Albert. “Mahaykasyapa’s Smile: Silent Transmission and the Kung-an (Kōan) Tradition.” In *THE KŌAN*, 75–109.
- Wright, Dale S. “The Discourse of Awakening: Rhetorical Practice in Classical Ch’an Buddhism.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (Spring, 1993). 23–40.

### Week 4 – October 5<sup>th</sup>

#### **Kōans Expounding the Dharma: Some Key Doctrinal Themes**

### **Reading:**

- Cleary, Thomas. *Book of Serenity*. Hudson, NY: Lindisfarne Press, 1990. Case 18.
- Heine, Steven. “On Methods to the Madness of Kōans: A New Theory of Interpretation.” In *ZEN KŌANS*, 70–96.
- Heine, Steven. “Personal Transformation: Cases Reflecting Doubt, Experience, and Expression.” In *ZEN KŌANS*, 97–128.
- Sharf, Robert. “How to Think with Chan Gongans.” In *Thinking with Cases: Specialized Knowledge in Chinese Cultural History*, edited by Charlotte Furth, Judith Zeitlin, Hsiung Ping-chen. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2007. 205–243.

### **Optional Reading:**

- Heine, Steven. “More Cats than Dogs? A Tale of Two Versions.” In *Like Cats and Dogs: Contesting the Mu Kōan in Zen Buddhism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. 1–36.
- Yasutani, Hakuun. “Commentary on the Kōan ‘Mu.’” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 261–272.

### Week 5 – October 12<sup>th</sup>

#### **Kōans Expounding the Dharma: Establishing the Tradition; The Spirit of Overturning**

### **Reading:**

- Cleary, Thomas and J.C. Cleary. *The Blue Cliff Record*. Boston: Shambhala, 2005. Cases 1, 63, 64, 92.
- Cleary, Thomas. *Book of Serenity*. Hudson, NY: Lindisfarne Press, 1990. Cases 1, 2, 9.
- Heine, Steven. “Monastic Transmission: Cases Reflecting Mythology, Monasticism, and Succession.” In *ZEN KŌANS*, 129–159.
- Heine, Steven. “Visions, Divisions, Revisions: The Encounter between Iconoclasm and Supernaturalism in Kōan Cases about Mount Wu-t’ai.” In *THE KŌAN*, 137–167.

### **Optional Reading:**

- Cole, Alan. *Fathering Your Father: The Zen of Fabrication in Tang Buddhism*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009. 1–29.

## II. GREAT DOUBT AND PHRASE INTROSPECTION CHAN

Week 6 – October 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Song Dynasty Polemics and the *Huatou* Approach**

#### **Reading:**

- Buswell, Robert E. Jr. “The ‘Short-cut’ Approach of K’an-hua Meditation.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 75–90.
- Buswell, Robert. “The Transformation of Doubt (Üijōng) in Kanhwa Sōn The Testimony of Gaofeng Yuanmiao (1238-1295).” In *Buddhist Philosophy and Meditation Practice: Academic Papers presented at the 2nd IABU Conference Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Main Campus, Wang Noi, Ayutthaya, Thailand*. 2012. 34–42.
- Dahui Zonggao. “Three Commentaries.” In *The Book of Mu: Essential Writings on Zen’s Most Important Kōan*, edited by James Ishmael Ford and Melissa Myozen Blacker. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2011. 23–28.
- Schlutter, Morten. “‘Before the Empty Eon’ versus ‘A Dog Has No Buddha-Nature’: Kung-an Use in the Ts’ao-tung Tradition and Ta-hui’s Kung-an Introspection Ch’an.” In *THE KŌAN*: 168–199.
- Yamada, Kōun. *The Gateless Gate: The Classic Book of Zen Kōans*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2004. Mumonkan Cases 1–6, 14, 18, 30, 33, 35–38, 45.

#### **Optional Reading:**

- Dumoulin, Heinrich. “The Song Period: A Time of Maturation.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 17–39.
- Levering, Miriam. “The *Huatou* Revolution, Pure Land Practice and Dahui’s Chan Discourse on the Moment of Death.” *Frontiers of History in China*. 2013, Vol. 8 Issue (3): 342–365.

**October 26<sup>th</sup> - No Class, “Reading Week”**

Week 7 – November 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Pure Land Kōans, Ming Dynasty Developments**

#### **Reading:**

- Broughton, Jeffrey and Elise Yoko Watanabe. *The Chan Whip Anthology: A Companion to Zen Practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. 1–45.
- Schlutter, Morten. “‘Who Is Reciting the Name of the Buddha?’ as *Gongan* in Chinese Chan Buddhism.” *Frontiers of History in China*. 2013, Vol. 8 Issue (3): 366–388.

#### **Optional Reading:**

- Broughton, Jeffrey and Elise Yoko Watanabe. *The Chan Whip Anthology: A Companion to Zen Practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. 77–133.
- Grant, Beata. *Eminent Nuns: Women Chan Masters of Seventeenth Century China*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2009. 37–76.

Week 8 – November 9<sup>th</sup>

**Kōan Study and Practice in Korean Buddhism**

**Reading:**

- Ahn, Juhn Y. *The Collected Works of Korean Buddhism Volume VII-1: Gonggan Collections I*. Seoul: Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, 2012. 3–72 (skim as needed, and do not feel compelled to read the footnotes).
- Buswell, Robert. *The Zen Monastic Experience: Buddhist Practice in Contemporary Korea*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992. Chapter 7: Zen Meditation in Korea, 149–60.
- Buswell, Robert. “Chinul’s Systemization of Chinese Meditative Techniques in Korean Sōn Buddhism.” In *Traditions of Meditation in Chinese Buddhism* edited by Peter Gregory. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1986. 199–242 focusing particularly on the section on Hwadu meditation, 216–226 (feel free to simply skim the rest of the article).
- Joo, Ryan Bongseok. “Gradual Experiences of Sudden Enlightenment: The Varieties of Ganhwa Seon Teachings in Contemporary Korea.” *The Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, March 31, 2011. 1–21.

**Optional Reading:**

- Ahn, Juhn Y. *The Collected Works of Korean Buddhism Volume VII-1: Gonggan Collections I*. Seoul: Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, 2012. 186–208, 351–368, 468–485.
- Kusan Sunim, “Instructions for Meditation.” In *The Way of Korean Zen*. Tokyo: Weatherhill, 2009. 59–72.
- Yeongsik, Jeong. “On the Practice and Prospects of Gonggan Seon in Modern Korean Buddhism: Focused on its Relation with Vipassana Meditation.” *The Eastern Buddhist* 42/1 (2011): 131-150.

**III. KŌAN STUDY AND PRACTICE IN JAPANESE ZEN**

Week 9 – November 16<sup>th</sup>

**Literary Zen in Japan**

**Reading:**

- Hori, Victor Sōgen. *Zen Sand: The Book of Capping Phrases for Kōan Practice*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003. 3–15, 30–71, 89–90, 101–110, 313–321. (Pages 5–15 can also be found in SITTING WITH KŌANS, 117–130.)
- Kabanoff, Alexander. “Ikkyū and Kōans.” In *THE KŌAN*, 213–232.

**Optional Reading:**

- Hori, Victor Sōgen. *Zen Sand: The Book of Capping Phrases for Kōan Practice*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003. 71–89.
- Kraft, Kenneth. *Eloquent Zen: Daitō and Early Japanese Zen*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1992. 130–150.
- Levering, Miriam. “A Monk’s Literary Education: Dahui’s Friendship with Juefan Huihong.” *Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal* No.13.2 (May 2000). 369–384.

Week 10 – November 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Kōans in Dōgen and Sōtō Zen**

**Reading:**

- Bodiford, William M. “Kōan Practice.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 91–115.
- Cook, Francis Dojun. “Keizan, Kōans and Succession in the Sōtō School.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 163–174.
- Foulk, Griff. “Dōgen’s Use of Rujing’s ‘Just Sit’ (*shikan taza*) and Other Kōans.” In *Dōgen and Sōtō Zen* ed. Steven Heine. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. 23–45.
- Keizan Jōkin. “Ancestor Dajian Huineng.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 175–183.
- Loori, Daido. “Dōgen and Kōans.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 151–162.
- Waddell, Norman and Masao Abe, trans., “Genjo Kōan – Manifesting Suchness” In *The Heart of Dōgen’s Shobogenzo*. Albany: SUNY Press, 2002. 39–46.

**Optional Reading:**

- Ishikawa, Rikizan. “Transmission of Kirigami (Secret Initiation Documents): A Sōtō Practice in Medieval Japan.” In *THE KŌAN*, 233–243.
- Leighton, Taigen Dan and Shohaku Okumura. *Dōgen’s Extensive Record: A Translation of the Eihei Kōroku*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2004. 86–90, 483, 537–543.
- Tanahashi, Kazuaki. “Avalokiteshvara.” In *Treasury of the True Dharma Eye*. Boston: Shambhala, 2010. 397–403.

Week 11 – November 30<sup>th</sup>

**Hakuin and his Successors**

**Reading:**

- Hakuin Ekaku. “Orategama Zokushu.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 191–210.
- Hakuin Ekaku. “The Voice of the Sound of One Hand.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 211–228.
- Hori, Victor Sōgen. “The Steps of Kōan Practice.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 131–148.
- Mohr, Michael. “Emerging from Nonduality: Kōan Practice in the Rinzai Tradition since Hakuin.” In *THE KŌAN*, 244–279.
- Yampolsky, Phillip. “Hakuin Ekaku and the Modern Kōan System.” In *SITTING WITH KŌANS*, 185–189.

**Optional Reading:**

- Broughton, Jeffrey and Elise Yoko Watanabe. *The Chan Whip Anthology: A Companion to Zen Practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. 45–57.
- Cleary, Thomas. *Secrets of the Blue Cliff Record*. Boston: Shambhala, 2000. 1–18.

Week 12 – December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Ritual Performance of Kōans**

**Reading:**

- Cleary, Thomas. *Book of Serenity*. Hudson, NY: Lindisfarne Press, 1990. Cases 16 and 84. (It may also be good to review Book of Serenity Case 1 and Blue Cliff Record Case 1 from the Week 5 readings as we will be discussing the ritual use of these two cases in class.)
- Hoffman, Yoel. *The Sound of the One Hand: 281 Zen Kōans with Answers*. New York: Basic Books, 1975. 47–54.
- Hori, G. Victor Sōgen. “Kōan and Kenshō in the Rinzai Zen Curriculum.” In *THE KŌAN*, 280–315.
- Stephenson, Barry. “The Kōan as Ritual Performance.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 73/2 (June 2005): 475–96.

**Optional Reading:**

- Koster, Jan. “Ritual performance and the politics of identity: On the functions and uses of ritual.” In *Ritual Language Behaviour: Special issue of Journal of Historical Pragmatics* 4:2 (2003). 211–248.
- Schechner, Richard. “Ritual and Performance.” In *Companion Encyclopedia of Anthropology: Humanity, Culture and Social Life* edited by Tim Ingold. London: Routledge, 2002. 613–647.

Week 13 – December 14<sup>th</sup>

**Unfolding Kōans Anew and New Kōans in the West**

**Reading:**

- Heine, Steven. “Whither Kōans, of Wither? Current Trends and Possible New Directions.” In *ZEN KŌANS*, 160–188.
- Looi, John Daido. *Two Arrows Meeting in Mid-Air: The Zen Kōan*. Boston: Tuttle, 1994. 173–187, 305–306.
- Tanahashi, Kazuaki and John Daido Looi. *The True Dharma Eye: Zen Master Dōgen’s Three Hundred Kōans*. Boston: Shambhala, 2005. xxxv–xli, 3–16.
- Wenger, Michael. *49 Fingers: A Collection of Modern American Kōans*. 18–31, 52–54.

**Optional Reading:**

- Magid, Barry. *Nothing is Hidden: The Psychology of Zen Koans*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2013. 11–40.

**\*\*\* Papers Due by Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> \*\*\***

**Please email your papers in Word Doc format if possible to [korin108@gmail.com](mailto: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)