

HRPH-8450 Topics in Japanese Religions
Fall 2016

Buddhism and Shinto in Japanese History

Instructor: Lisa Grumbach

lgrumbach@earthlink.net

A major issue in the study of Japanese religions is the long relationship between Shinto and Buddhism. Both this long relationship, and the epoch-ending, state-ordered split of the two in 1868, have been great forces in the shaping of Japanese culture and society. However, the term “Shinto” is difficult to define. This single term is applied to diverse practices in different time periods—although all these practices involve the worship of *kami*, “gods.” Thus a primary question in this course is, “What is Shinto?” We will examine the various definitions that have been applied to “Shinto”; look at what kinds of practices are included in “Shinto”; and consider to what extent “Shinto” has been co-terminal with Buddhism. Some of the topics we will cover include:

- What is known about the formation of *kami* worship in early Japan?
- How did the advent of Buddhism to Japan impact *kami* worship?
- What was the relationship between religion and the state in ancient and medieval Japan?
- How did “average” people experience the *kami* (e.g., how did they worship *kami*, how did they conceive of *kami*) in the past, and how do they do so in the present?
- In the modern era, how did Shinto become the “unchanging, indigenous religion of Japan,” in association with worship of the emperor, and later “nature”?
- How has the forced splitting of Buddhism and Shinto affected the practice of these traditions in contemporary Japan?

Prerequisites:

This class has no specific prerequisites, but it is not an introductory class. It is assumed that students have some knowledge of Japanese religion, culture, and/or language, achieved either through course work or personal experience.

Required books:

1. Ian Reader and George J. Tanabe, Jr., *Practically Religious: Worldly Benefits and the Common Religion of Japan* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1998).
2. John Breen and Mark Teeuwen, eds., *Shinto in History: Ways of the Kami* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2000).

3. John Breen and Mark Teeuwen, *A New History of Shinto* (Chichester, U.K.: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

Another excellent book, but not required (readings from this book will be provided online):

Inoue Nobutaka, ed., *Shinto—A Short History*, translated and adapted by Mark Teeuwen and John Breen (New York: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003)

All other readings will be provided online for downloading.

Course requirements:

1. Class participation: If we have fewer than 4 students, we will try to arrange online meetings via Skype. If this will not be possible, we will have online, asynchronous written discussion on Moodle.
2. Student presentation or paper: Each student will present an overview of a specific religious site in Japan (approximately 20 min.), or will write a paper (7–10 pages) on this kind of topic (or another topic chosen in consultation with the instructor). Assuming that we will be able to meet online through Skype, students can do oral presentations (no written paper required); if we cannot meet online, then students will write papers. Presentations and/or papers will be due in the last week of class.

Grading:

Class participation 60%

Presentation 40%

Syllabus

Abbreviations used in the syllabus:

[JJRS] = *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*; articles can be downloaded from the journal's website [Back Issues On-line:
http://www.nanzan-u.ac.jp/SHUBUNKEN/publications/jjrs/jjrs_cumulative_list.htm#latestissue]

[M] = article provided on the Moodle course-site

Week 1

Introductions: “Shinto” vs. *Kami* Worship

Handout:

- Sarah Thal, “Shinto: Beyond ‘Japan’s Indigenous Religion,’” *Religious Studies Review* 32/3 (2006): 145–50.

Part I. That Which Is Called Shinto

Week 2

The Problem of “Shinto”

- *A New History of Shinto*, by Breen and Teeuwen
Chapter 1: An Alternative Approach to the History of Shinto
- Optional: *Shinto in History*, Introduction by John Breen and Mark Teeuwen, 1–12.
- [M] Sarah Thal, *Rearranging the Landscape of the Gods: The Politics of a Pilgrimage Site in Japan, 1573–1912* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), 1–10.
- [M] Inoue Nobutaka, “What is Shinto?” in Inoue, ed., *Shinto—A Short History*, translated and adapted by Mark Teeuwen and John Breen (New York: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003), 1–10.
- [M] Kuroda Toshio, “Shinto in the History of Japanese Religion,” in *Religions of Japan in Practice*: 451–67.

Week 3

The “Common” Elements of Buddhism and Shinto

- Reader and Tanabe, *Practically Religious*
Introduction
Chapter 1. Benefits in the Religious System: Settings and Dynamics
Chapter 2. Scripture and Benefits

Chapter 3. Buying Out Chance: Morality, Belief, and Prayer

Week 4

Shinto/Buddhism as Practice(s)

- Reader and Tanabe, *Practically Religious*
Chapter 4. The Providers of Benefits: Gods, Saints, and Wizards
Chapter 5. The Dynamics of Practice
- [JJRS 509] Karen Smyers, "Inari Pilgrimage: Following One's Path on the Mountain," *JJRS* 24/3–4 (1997): 427–52.

Week 5

Shinto/Buddhism as Place(s)

- Sonoda Minoru, "Shinto and the Natural Environment," in *Shinto in History*, 32–46.
- [M] James Dobbins, "Envisioning Kamakura Buddhism," in Richard K. Payne, ed., *Re-Visioning "Kamakura" Buddhism* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, Kuroda Institute, 1998): 24–42.
- [M] Allan Grapard, "Flying Mountains and Walkers of Emptiness: Toward a Definition of Sacred Space in Japanese Religions," *History of Religions* 21/3 (1982): 195–221.
- Optional: [JJRS 724] Matsuoka Hideaki, "Landscape as Doctrinal Representation: The Sacred Place of Shūyōdan Hōseikai," *JJRS* 32/2 (2005): 319–39.

Book reports due in Week 6

Week 6

Tearing Up the Religious Landscape: The Meiji Government's Creation of Religion and Non-religion

- [M] Allan Grapard, "Japan's Ignored Cultural Revolution: The Separation of Shinto and Buddhist Divinities in Meiji (*shinbutsu bunri*) and a Case Study: Tōnomine," *History of Religions* 23/3 (1984): 240–65.
- Nitta Hitoshi, "Shinto as a 'Non-religion': The Origins and Development of an Idea," in *Shinto in History*, 252–71.
- [JJRS 732] Jason Ananda Josephson, "When Buddhism Became a 'Religion': Religion and Superstition in the Writings of Inoue Enryō," *JJRS* 33/1 (2006): 143–68.
- Nicola Liscutin, "Mapping the Sacred Body: Shinto versus Popular Beliefs at Mt. Iwaki in Tsugaru," in *Shinto in History*, 186–204.

Part II.
Kami Worship in Ancient and Medieval Japan

Week 7

The Configuring of “Shinto” in Premodern Japan

- A New History of Shinto:
 - Chapter 2: Kami Shrines, Myths, and Rituals in Premodern Japan
 - Chapter 4: The History of a Myth: The Sun Goddess and the Rock Cave
- Nelly Naumann, “The State Cult of the Nara and Early Heian Periods,” in *Shinto in History*, 47–67.
- Allan Grapard, “The Economics of Ritual Power,” in *Shinto in History*, 68–94.
- [M] Donald Philippi, *Kojiki* (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1968): 47–90.

Week 8

READING WEEK

NO CLASS

Week 9

Shinto-Buddhist Combinations:

The Development of *Honji suijaku* Thought and Practice

- [M] Allan Grapard, “Institution, Ritual, and Ideology: The Twenty-Two Shrine-Temple Multiplexes of Heian Japan,” *History of Religions* 27/3 (1988): 246–69.
- [M] Mark Teeuwen and Fabio Rambelli, “Introduction: Combinatory Religion and the *honji suijaku* Paradigm in Pre-modern Japan,” in *Buddhas and Kami in Japan: Honji Suijaku as a Combinatory Paradigm*, edited by Mark Teeuwen and Fabio Rambelli (New York: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003), 1–53.

Week 10

Honji suijaku Thought in Religious Practice,
Government, and Society

- [M] Miyazaki Fumiko, “The Religious Life of the Kamakura Bushi,” *Monumenta Nipponica* 47, no. 4 (1992): 435–67.
- Mark Teeuwen, “The Kami in Esoteric Buddhist Thought and Practice,” in *Shinto in History*, 95–116.

Week 11

Shinto as Anti-Buddhism?

Japan as the “Land of the Kami,” “Reverse” *honji suijaku*,
and the Development of Yoshida (Yuiitsu) Shinto

- [M] Allan Grapard, “The Shinto of Yoshida Kanetomo,” *Monumenta Nipponica* 47/1: 27–58.
- Bernhard Scheid, “Reading the *Yuiitsu Shintō myōbō yōshū*: A Modern Exegesis of an Esoteric Shinto Text,” in *Shinto in History*, 117–43.

III. Tokugawa Developments

Week 12

The Early Tokugawa Period:
Shinto, Neo-Confucianism, and *Juke* (Confucian) Shinto

- [M] Endo Jun, “The Early Modern Period: In Search of a Shinto Identity,” in *Shinto—A Short History*, 108–58.
- J.W. Boot, “The Death of a Shogun: Deification in Early Modern Japan,” in *Shinto in History*, 144–66.

Week 13

Japanese Nativism: Becoming Japanese

- [JJRS 557] Isomae Jun’ichi, “Reappropriating the Japanese Myths: Motoori Norinaga and the Creation Myths of the *Kojiki* and *Nihon shoki*,” *JJRS* 27/1–2 (2000): 15–39.
- Kamata Toji, “The Disfiguring of Nativism: Hirata Atsutane and Orikuchi Shinobu,” in *Shinto in History*, 295–317.
- Optional: Anne Walthall, “Nativism as a Social Movement: Katagiri Harukazu and the *Hongaku reisha*,” in *Shinto in History*, 205–29.
- [JJRS 706] William Lindsey, “Religion and the Good Life: Motivation, Myth, and Metaphor in a Tokugawa Female Lifestyle Guide,” *JJRS* 32/1 (2005): 35–52.

IV. Shinto in the Modern Period

Week 14

The Impact of the Meiji Restoration: Shinto and Nationalism

- John Breen, “Ideologues, Bureaucrats and Priests: On ‘Shinto’ and ‘Buddhism’ in Early Meiji Japan,” in *Shinto in History*, 230–51.
- *A New History of Shinto*:
Chapter 3: The History of a Shrine: Hie
- [M] Inoue Takami, “The Interaction between Buddhist and Shinto Traditions at Suwa Shrine,” in *Buddhas and Kami in Japan*, ed. by Mark Teeuwen and Fabio Rambelli (New York: RoutledgeCurzon: 2003): 287–312.

Some other articles of potential interest, but not required for our weekly reading:

- Inoue Nobutaka, “The Modern Age: Shinto Confronts Modernity,” in *Shinto—A Short History*, 159–97.
- Richard Gardner, “Nationalistic Shinto: A Child’s Guide to Yasukuni Shrine,” in *Religions of Japan in Practice*, 334–39.
- Brian Bocking, “Changing Images of Shinto: *Sanja takusen* or the Three Oracles,” in *Shinto in History*, 167–85.
- [JJRS 319] Miyazaki Fumiko, “The Formation of Emperor Worship in the New Religions: The Case of Fujidō,” *JJRS* 17/2–3 (1990): 281–314.
- [JJRS 320] Kurihara Akira, “The Emperor System as Japanese National Religion: The Emperor System Module in Everyday Consciousness,” *JJRS* 17/2–3 (1990): 315–40.

Week 15

Modern Shinto: Urban Life, Globalization, and Miscellaneous Issues

- Reader and Tanabe, *Practically Religious*
Chapter 6. Selling Benefits: The Marketing of Efficacy and Truth
Chapter 7. Guidebooks to Practical Benefits
Chapter 8. Conclusions
- *A New History of Shinto*:
Chapter 6: Issues in Contemporary Shinto
- [M] Nelson H. H. Graburn, “When *Uchi* goes *Soto*: The Travels of the Gods in the Shinto Diaspora,” in Ronan Alves Pereira and Hideaki Matsuoka (eds.), *Japanese Religions in and beyond the Japanese Diaspora* (Berkeley: Center for Japanese Studies, 2007).

Week 16

No class; student presentations/papers due