Instructor: Dr. Natalie Quli
Email: natalie@shin-ibs.edu
Room & Time: JSC 130, Tuesdays 9:40–12:30
Office hours: Mondays 9–12, by appointment

What roots, both Western and Asian, gave rise to Theravada as it exists in the West? What relationships exist with lineages in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and other Southeast Asian locales? What factors have shaped its expression, both historically and in the contemporary period? We will explore lineages and communities in the United States, including Vipassana/insight groups and their relationship to colonial-era Burmese reform movements; the Thai Forest traditions deriving from Ajahn Chah; and the origins of diaspora groups in the US. We will interrogate issues of identity, doctrine, praxis, continuity of tradition, textualization, Westernization, and the transformation of Theravada in a global context. Students will reflect critically on Western Theravada with regard to questions of postcolonialism, Orientalism, modernity/postmodernity/Buddhist Modernism, privilege, power, and authority. Lecture, discussion, and mandatory field visits. Field journal & short, bi-weekly essay assignments required.

Grading
50% participation & attendance, 25% field notes, 25% essay assignments

Field Sites
Insight Meditation Center, Redwood City
Wat Buddhanusorn, Fremont
Buddhi Vihara, Santa Clara
Spirit Rock Meditation Center, Woodacre
Berkeley Buddhist Monastery, Berkeley (Abhayagiri monastics)

Required Texts
Books are available in the Jodo Shinshu Center Bookstore.


**Supplementary Readings**
Electronic copies will be provided by the instructor.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Readings listed for each session should be completed before arriving for class.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6        IBS Classroom

Readings:

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13        IBS Classroom

Readings:

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20        Insight Meditation Center

Readings:
Tweed, American Encounter with Buddhism, Chaps. 4–6 & postscript

*Field Visit:
Tues., September 20, 9:30am–11:00am

Insight Meditation Center
108 Birch Street
Redwood City, CA 94062

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27        IBS Classroom

Readings:

Bring Field Notes to class.
WEEK OF OCTOBER 4  Wat Buddhanusorn

Readings:

*Field Visit:*
Tues., October 4, 7–9pm.

Wat Buddhanusorn
36054 Niles Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94536

Remember to bring Field Notes to the wat.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 11  IBS Classroom

Readings:

Bring Field Notes to class.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 18  Buddhi Vihara

Readings:

Numrich, *Old Wisdom in the New World*, Chaps. 5–8

*Field Visit:*
Friday, 8:30–10pm

Buddhi Vihara,
402 Knowles Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Remember to bring Field Notes to the vihara.
**WEEK OF OCTOBER 25**  
Reading Week

Enjoy the week.

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**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1**  
IBS Classroom

**Readings:**


Bring Field Notes to class.

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**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8**  
Spirit Rock Meditation Center

**Readings:**


**Field Visit:**

Wednesday, November 8, 9–11am

Spirit Rock Meditation Center  
5000 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard,  
Woodacre, CA 94973

Remember to bring Field Notes to the center.

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**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15**  
IBS Classroom

**Readings:**


Bring Field Notes to class.
### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22

**Jhāna Video Buffet (view at home)**

**Readings:**

Kornfield, Jack. *Living Dharma: Teachings and Meditation Instructions from Twelve Theravada Masters.*


**Videos:**

Sujato, Ajahn. “Samatha vs Vipassana.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UarkCJSvLJQ

Vimalaramsi, Bhante. “Commentaries Vs. the Suttas - Which is Right?”

   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LTORe5JxkU


   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjeFZoQYTPs

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29

**IBS Classroom**

**Readings:**

Kornfield, *Living Dharma*, Chaps. 9–17


### WEEK OF DECEMBER 6

**Berkeley Buddhist Monastery (Abhayagiri night)**

**Readings:**


**Field Visit:**

Tuesday, December 6, 7:30pm–9:45pm

Berkeley Buddhist Monastery

2304 McKinley Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94703

Bring Field Notes to monastery.

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 13

**IBS Classroom: Wrap Up**