

University of Calgary - Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies
RELS 329 L20 Spring 2009 - Buddhism in East Asia

May 11, 2009

Instructor: Shinobu Arai Apple

Class Time: MW 11:00-13:45

Office & Office Hours: SS 1331, W 14:00-15:00 or by appointment

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Required Texts

1. Kasahara, Kazuo. *A History of Japanese Religion*. Tokyo: Kosei Publishing Co., 2001.
2. Materials on Blackbord.

Course Description and Goal

This course focuses upon the historical and cultural formations of Buddhism in both China and Japan that closely relate to the *Lotus Sutra*, one of the most influential Buddhist texts in East Asia. The veneration of the *Lotus Sutra* had been observed in various formations in both China and Japan throughout their histories, and they exhibit unique forms of interaction/assimilation with other indigenous religious traditions, as well as with the contemporary polity, society, and culture in each country.

In examining various activities and movements associated with the *Lotus Sutra* found in China and Japan, students will gain not only an understanding of the multi-faceted nature of religious formations, but also the understanding of how the social, cultural, and political currents have been shaping religious formations.

The subject matter will be approached in an interdisciplinary manner by paying special attention to the interrelationships of various disciplines, such as philosophy, history, politics, literature, art, among others. This approach will help students to comprehend religious traditions within the context of cultural formation as a human enterprise.

Core Competencies

This class is designed for students to gain the ability to read the primary texts in translation in a

manner that enables them to re-describe, evaluate, compare, and analyze respective religious formations through engaging in class discussions, examinations and essays, and presentations. For this purpose, students are required to read each of the assigned materials prior to the respective class.

Course Requirements

1. Exams 50% (Midterm – 25 %, Final – 25 %)

Each exam consists of three sections: fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and short essay. The questions are designed for students to demonstrate their familiarity with the content of the course materials, and to demonstrate their ability to critically analyze the short reading material(s) given at the time of exam. If you cannot take the exam on the scheduled date due to a sudden illness or emergency, you must contact me or Department office as soon as possible. To be allowed to take a rescheduled exam, you must provide a proof of illness/emergency.

2. Essay 40% (Essay – 35 %, Essay Outline – 5 %)

Essay Outline Due Date: June 1 Essay Due Date: June 22

Essay should have more than 2000 words double spaced. The specific topic of the essay should relate to the category of “Buddhism in East Asia.” The essay is expected to exhibit students’ ability to research necessary materials for the topic, and to demonstrate analytical thinking about the topic and materials chosen.

An **Essay Outline** is required. It should indicate the subject and provide an outline of your proposed essay and the bibliography. Although each student is expected to submit an essay based on the Essay Outline previously submitted, **an alteration of the essay subject** is allowed if the new Essay Outline is submitted **no later than June 10th**. Late submission of the essay will result in losing a grade point for each day late after the due date. Paper parameters and guidelines will be distributed in class.

NOTE: detailed guidelines for submitting essay will be distributed in class.

3. Essay Summary + Presentation 10%

Each student will prepare a summary of his/her paper in 300 – 500 words, and perform a 10 minutes presentation based on the summary followed by a 5 minute discussion that is led by the presenter. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to recapitulate his/her essay and convey its core meaning to fellow students. Students must attend all

presentations and are encouraged to participate in the discussion. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class. Failure to attend this class will result in a grade of zero.

Class Schedule (tentative)

May 20	1 - Introduction: What is the <i>Lotus Sutra</i> ?: Its Position and Significance in the Context of Mahayana Buddhism 2 - Central themes of the <i>Lotus Sutra</i> [I] (Reading the <i>Lotus Sutra</i>) (1) One vehicle – Universal Buddhahood and <i>Upaya</i> (skilful means) (2) A True Aspect of All phenomena (3) The Primordial Buddha and Various kinds of Bodhisattvas
May 25	3 - Buddhism and the State in China 4 - Studies of the <i>Lotus Sutra</i> in the <i>Tiantai</i> school
May 27	5 - The <i>Lotus Sutra</i> and Indigenous Religious Traditions 6 - Devotional Practices relating to the <i>Lotus Sutra</i> : <i>Guanyin</i> veneration
June 1	< Due Date of Essay Outline > 7 - The <i>Lotus Sutra</i> and Prince Shotoku: Buddhism and the State in Japan I 8 - The Lotus as the Sutra Protecting the State: Buddhism and the State in Japan II
June 3	- Midterm Exam
June 8	9 - Association of Buddhism and <i>Kami</i> Worship 10 - Foundation of Japanese <i>Tendai</i> School
June 10	***< Final Due Date: Alteration of Essay Outline > 11 - The Mutual Reliance between the Law of Kingship and the Law of Buddhism: Buddhism and the State in Japan III 12 - Buddhism and Women in Pre-modern Japan
June 15	13 - The <i>Lotus Sutra</i> and Japanese Literature 14 - The <i>Lotus Sutra</i> and Asceticism in Japan
June 17	15 - Nichiren and Original Enlightenment Thought 16 - Nichiren and the State
June 22	< Essay due > 17 - Nationalism and the <i>Lotus Sutra</i> in pre WWII Japan 18 - Peace Movement of the New Religious Organizations and the <i>Lotus Sutra</i> in Post WWII Japan
June 24	- Students' Presentations
	Registrar scheduled Final Exam

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following numerical and letter grade scheme (standardized with in the Department of Religious Studies):

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52 - 50	F	Under 50

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any essays or examination is regarded as serious academic offences at the University of Calgary, and has severe consequences. Students are advised to consult pp. 54 – 56 of the University Calendar which provides a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct. If you have questions about correcting referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Center, please contact the office at (403) 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Center are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming texts/examination with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.

(DRC web address is following: www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/)

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information, please e-mail: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis