

ZEN BUDDHISM

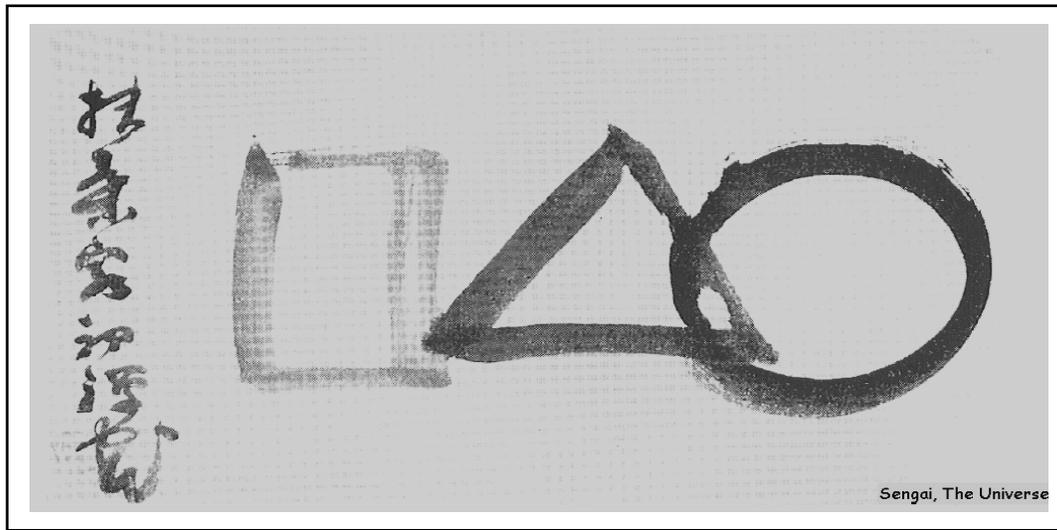
Spring 2010

Professor Todd T. Lewis

Department of Religious Studies, SMITH HALL 425

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30-6:15

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Course Description

This course is designed for students with varying backgrounds to learn about Zen Buddhism and the many influences it has exerted upon Asian civilizations. The class begins by establishing the necessary background in Buddhism and the wider context of east Asian spirituality. We then examine the texts and monastic practices that cultivate Zen spirituality. Finally, we explore the fine arts and martial disciplines of Japan, areas in which Zen influence has been especially significant. Special emphasis in Spring 2008 will be placed on Zen gardens and tea ceremony.

Consistent with the ethos of the Zen tradition, the course has been designed to convey an understanding of this subject visually and experientially, although standard reading assignments and lectures remain central to the semester's learning experience.

Requirements:

1. Class Attendance. This will include an evening *zazen* session, and several lecture programs.
2. Required Readings should be completed *before* the designated class.
3. Three papers, according to syllabus deadlines. Late work will not receive full credit.
4. Zen Assignment submitted and presented on the final meeting.
5. An oral final examination during the reading period.

Highly Recommended: An open, questing, "beginner's mind."

Required Textbooks:

Natalie Goldberg, *Writing Down the Bones*. Boulder: Shambhala, 1986.
Heinrich Dumoulin, *Zen Enlightenment*. Weatherhill, 2007
Peter Hershock, *Chan Buddhism*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 2005
Koun Yamada, *The Gateless Gate* Boston: Wisdom, 2004
Tanchu Terayama *Zen Brushwork*, NY: Kodansha International, 2004
D. Howard Smith, *The Wisdom of the Taoists*. New York: New Directions, 1980
Shinryu Suzuki, *Zen Mind Beginner's Mind*. NY: Weatherhill, 1972
Marc Keene, *Japanese Garden Design*. NY: Charles Tuttle, 2002.
Paul Reps, ed. *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*. Tuttle Publishing, reprint, 1998,
Bardwell Smith ed. *Unsu: Diary of Zen Monastic Life*. Univ. of Hawaii Press, 1973.
L. Stryk, *Zen Poetry: Let the Spring Breeze Enter* NY: Grove Press, 1995
Miyamoto Musashi, *The Book of Five Rings*. NY: Bantam, 1992)
Kakuzo Okakura, *The Book of Tea*. NY: Dover, 1966
Robert E. Kennedy, *Zen Spirit, Christian Spirit*. New York: Continuum, 1995.
Course Packet /ERE-s/

All Textbooks have been ordered from the College Bookstore.

Grading:

1. Three Papers (10/10/10)	30 points
2. Zen Assignment	30
3. Final Examination	25
4. Informed Class Participation	<u>15</u>
	100 points

The Zen Assignment:

Our studies will culminate in class presentations of a term project. It must be terse, maximum two sheets (four printed sides) in length. The Zen Assignment is a written exploration, in-depth of a particular topic in the field of Zen Buddhism or on a theme related to some aspect of Zen spirituality. Zen Assignments in past classes have been original and creative, some in-depth philosophical prose discourses, others based on intensive apprenticeship experiences. A few have been on video, CD, and even wordless. A special handout describing the possibilities and terms of this assignment will be distributed and discussed.

TOPICS and READING ASSIGNMENTS

1/20. Course Overview & Film: "Japan: Land of the Disappearing Buddha"

Required Reading

Zen Enlightenment, 1-13; Peter Hershock, *Chan Buddhism*, 1-6

FOUNDATIONS

1/25. Orientation to the Study of Zen

Required Reading

Alan Watts, "Beat Zen, Square Zen, and Zen" [ERE-s]

1/27. Introduction to Buddhism: Buddha's Life

Required Reading

Zen Enlightenment, 14-24

2/1. Review of Basic Buddhist Doctrines

Required Reading

"Sutra of 42 Chapters" [ERE-s] and Peter Hershock, *Chan Buddhism*, 7-24

2/3. Mahāyāna Buddhism

Required Reading

Zen Enlightenment, 25-34; 35-41

2/8. Reading the Mahāyāna Sutras: Discussion

Required Reading

The Heart Sutra and Selections from *Mahayana Sutras*; Text by Master Huang-po; *Verses on Faith in Mind*, [ERE-s]

East Asian Transmission and Origins of Chan

2/10. Transmission of Buddhism to East Asia; the Confucian Context

Required Reading

Peter Hershock, *Chan Buddhism*, 34-65

2/15. The Cultural Dialogs in East Asia I: Daoism

Required Reading

The Wisdom of the Taoists

2/17. Ch'an Buddhism: Formation and School Lineage

Required Reading

Zen Enlightenment, 77-87; *Chan Buddhism*, 66-131
The Platform Sutra of the 5th Patriarch, [ERE-s]

2/22. Buddhism in Japan: The Shinto Context and the Origins of Zen

Required Reading

Ian Reader, "'Kami: Myths and Meaning" & "Shinto in Japanese Religious History" [ERES]

2/23. Zen Music: Shakuhachi workshop and concert Sui-Zen

2-3:15 PM in Brooks Concert Hall

ZEN DOCTRINE, ZEN PRACTICES

2/24. CLASS 5. Zen Texts

Required Reading

Zen Enlightenment, 88-124; *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*, 92-132
Selections from Dogen's *Shobogenzo* and Hakuin's Writings [ERE-s]

Spring Break no class

3/8. Zen Meditation; Zazen and Koans

Required Reading

Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind, 1-52; *Zen Enlightenment*, 139-153
The Gateless Gate, assigned cases

3/10. Zen Monastic Life I:

VIDEO: "Principles and Practices of Zen" [end]

Required Reading

Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind, 53-91; *Zen Enlightenment*, 125-138
Unsui: *Diary of Zen Monastic Life*.

3/15: TBA: Evening of Zen Meditation

3/17. Zen Monastic Life I:

VIDEO: "Principles and Practices of Zen" FINALE

ZEN and the FINE ARTS

3/22: Introduction to Zen Arts: *Wabi-Sabi, Yugen,*

Required Reading

D.T. Suzuki, "General Remarks on Japanese Art Culture" [ERE-s]

Peter Hershock, *Chan Buddhism*, 132-158

3/24. Zen Brush Session with Painter Yin Peet

Tanchu Terayama, *Zen Brushwork*,

"Painting" [ERE-s]

3/29. Poetry, Noh, "Zen Writing"

Required Reading

L. Stryk, *Zen Poetry: Let the Spring Breeze Enter*

Natalie Goldberg, *Writing Down the Bones*. [COMPLETED]

"Japanese Noh drama: *Eguchi*" [ERE-s]

3/31: Flower Arrangement 📄 Paper #3 due

Required Reading

Marc Keene, *Japanese Garden Design*.

"Flower Arrangement" [ERE-s]

4/5: NO CLASS, Easter Vacation

4/7. Gardening Traditions I

Required Reading

Marc Keene, *Japanese Garden Design*.

4/12. Gardening Traditions II

Required Reading

Marc Keene, *Japanese Garden Design*. [completed]

ZEN and TEA

4/21 and 4/26. Tea Ceremony

Required Reading/Viewing

Kakuzo Okakura *The Book of Tea* (NY: Dover, 1964)

"Tea Ceremony" [ERE-s]

ZEN and THE MARTIAL ARTS

4/14. The Samurai: Archery and Swordsmanship

Required Reading/Viewing

Miyamoto Musashi, *A Book of Five Rings*

4/19. Zen and the Samurai: VIDEO: Selection from "Samurai Trilogy"

Required Reading/Viewing

Miyamoto Musashi, *A Book of Five Rings*

Zen and the MODERN WORLD

4/28. Modernity, Nationalism, War; Zen & the Western Imagination

Required Reading

Robert Scharf, "The Zen of Japanese Nationalism" [ERE-s]

Selections from Brian Victoria, *Zen at War*. [ERE-s]



5/3. or TBA: Presentations of Zen Assignments

Class members present their work

EXAM WEEK: Oral Final Examinations

