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 or 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:
Peter Hershock, *Chan Buddhism*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 2005

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 15
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”
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
Required Reading
Ian Reader, "Kami: Myths and Meaning" & "Shinto in Japanese Religious History" [ERES]

2-3:15 PM in Brooks Concert Hall

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
Peter Herschock, Chan Buddhism, 132-158

3/24. Zen Brush Session with Painter Yin Peet
Tanchu Terayama, Zen Brushwork,
“Painting” [ERE-s]

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