

**From India to Japan**  
**Patterns of Transmission and Innovation in Japanese Buddhism**  
**KCJS, Spring 2018**  
**Catherine Ludvik**

**Class Time:** Mon & Fri 1:10–2:40

**Course Description**

This course takes students on a pan-Asian journey from India to Japan, via the Silk Road, through an exploration of the origins, transmission and assimilation of selected themes in Japanese Buddhism, and their subsequent developments within Japan. We trace the beginnings and metamorphoses of selected figures of the Japanese Buddhist pantheon, like the ancient Indian river goddess Sarasvatī who is worshipped in Japan as Benzaiten, and of certain ritual practices, like the Japanese goma fire ceremonies and their relationship to the Vedic homa rites of India, and we study about some of the illustrious Indian, Chinese and Japanese monks who functioned as their transmitters. By way of these themes, we examine patterns of transmission and innovation.

The aim of this course is to provide a wider Asian context and a layered understanding for what students encounter in the many temples of Kyoto and nearby Nara, and in the numerous festivals and ceremonies that take place within them. Themes discussed in class will be amply illustrated through field trips to temples and festivals.

**Course Materials**

There is no single textbook. Readings are listed in the Course Outline below.

**Course Requirements and Grading Policy**

1. Attendance and participation in classes and field trips, timely completion of the required readings, contribution to class discussions (15%)

Attendance: please be sure to arrive on time and prepared for class. If you are more than 30 minutes late, you will be counted as absent. Your grade will be reduced if you are absent more than three times or repeatedly late.

Preparation: readings are assigned for each class and are to be completed in preparation for the

class.

Participation: students will take turns summarizing readings and raising discussion questions; you are expected to participate actively in class discussions.

Electronic devices: please turn off your mobile phones and other electronic devices during class.

2. Class presentation (20%): individual or group (depending on student numbers) presentation on a member of the Buddhist pantheon. Students will be graded on the basis of their research, ability to consolidate and coherently summarize, as well as present their selected deity within both broad Asian and localized Japanese contexts.

3. Assignments (40%): two short papers (20% each) based on research, analysis of academic sources, and integration with fieldwork.

Plagiarism: misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own will result in an automatic “F”. Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of information that is not common knowledge should be cited.

Late submissions: assignments submitted late will be subject to one letter-grade reduction per week.

4. Final examination (25%)

Cheating, or helping others to cheat will result in an automatic “F”.

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities.** If you are a student with a disability and have a DS-certified ‘Accommodation Letter’ please see the KCJS resident director to confirm your accommodation needs. If you believe that you have a disability that requires accommodation, you can contact your home school's Disability Services or Columbia's Disability Services at [disability@columbia.edu](mailto:disability@columbia.edu). The Office of Global Programs (OGP) can also assist you to connect with Columbia's Disability Services.

## Course Outline and Reading Assignments

### INTRODUCTION

Jan 12 (Fri) Course Introduction

Jan 15 (Mon) Buddha Śākyamuni: Commemorating His Life and Death

Readings: Sarah J. Horton, “Śākyamuni, Still Alive in This World” in *Living Buddhist Statues in Early Medieval and Modern Japan* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007) pp. 22–31, 42–48; Gregory Henderson and Leon Hurvitz, “The Buddha of Seiryōji: New Finds and New Theory,” *Artibus Asiae* 19:1 (1956), pp. 5-55.

Jan 19 (Fri) Stūpas and Pagodas; early Japanese Buddhist Temples

Readings: Penelope Mason, *History of Japanese Art*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. rev. by Donald Dinwiddie (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2004), pp. 40–42, 58–65, 81–82; Anna Libera Dallapiccola, “Stūpa,” in *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, ed. Robert E. Buswell (New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2004), vol. 2, pp. 803–808; “The Vimalakīrti Sūtra (Yuima-kyō),” in Wm. Theodore de Bary, Donald Keene, George Tanabe, and Paul Varley (comp.), *Sources of Japanese Tradition* (2nd ed.), vol.1: *From Earliest Times to 1600* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001), pp. 59–61.

### BUDDHIST PANTHEON

Jan 22 (Mon) Navigating the Buddhist Pantheon

Readings: Nishikawa Kyōtarō and Emily J. Sano, “Buddhist Imagery” in *The Great Age of Buddhist Sculpture, AD 600–1300* (University of Washington Press, 1983), pp. 42–46; Louis Frederic, *Buddhism, Flammarion Iconographic Guides* (Paris, New York: Flammarion, 1995), pp. 39–76.

Jan 26 (Fri) Field trip to Kōryūji: Buddhist Statuary

Pensive Bodhisattva, Prince Regent Shōtoku, and the Hata Clan

Reading: Christine M. E. Guth, “The Pensive Prince of Chūgūji: Maitreya Cult and Image in Seventh-Century Japan,” in Allan Sponberg and Helen Hardacre (eds.), *Maitreya, the Future Buddha* (Cambridge University Press, 1988), pp. 191–213.

Also recommended: Miyata Noboru, “Types of Maitreya Belief in Japan,” in *Maitreya, the Future Buddha*, pp. 175–190.

- Jan 29 (Mon) Deified Patriarchs  
Readings: George D. Bond, “Arhat” and Richard K. Kent, “Arhat Images” in *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, vol. 1, pp. 28–31; John S. Strong, “The Legend of the Lion-Roarer: A Study of the Buddhist Arhat Piṇḍola Bhāradvāja,” *Numen* 26:1 (1979), pp. 50-88.
- Feb 2 (Fri) Field trip to Mibudera and Darumadera’s Setsubun Festival  
Readings: Bernard Faure, “From Bodhidharma to Daruma: The Hidden Life of a Zen Patriarch,” *Japan Review* 23 (2011), pp. 45–71; Kokugakuin Encyclopedia of Shinto, “Setsubun” (handout).
- Feb 5 (Mon) Presentations on the Buddhist Pantheon
- Feb 9 (Fri) KCJS Spring Trip
- Feb 12 (Mon) National Holiday
- Feb 16 (Fri) Field trip to Kuginuki Jizō and Senbon Enmadō  
Reading: Sarah J. Horton, “Jizō to the Rescue,” in *Living Buddhist Statues in Early Medieval and Modern Japan*, pp. 112–155.  
Also recommended: Hank Glassman, *The Face of Jizō: Image and Cult in Medieval Japanese Buddhism* (University of Hawai’i Press, 2012).
- Feb 19 (Mon) Strategies of (Re)presentation: Revealing, Concealing, Magnifying and Multiplying  
Readings: Diana L. Eck, *Darśan, Seeing the Divine Image in India* (3<sup>rd</sup>

ed., New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), pp. 3–10 (A. Darśan); Sherry Fowler, "Hibutsu: Secret Buddhist Images of Japan." *Journal of Asian Culture* 15 (1991/1992), pp. 137–159.

Feb 23 (Fri) Field Trip to Sanjūsangendō: Multiplying Arms, Heads, and Statues  
Reading: Sherry Fowler, "Between Six and Thirty-three: Manifestations of Kannon in Japan," in Epprecht, Katharina, et al., *Kannon—Divine Compassion: Early Buddhist Art from Japan* (Zürich: Museum Rietberg, 2007) pp. 59–79.

Feb 26 and Mar 2 Spring Break

## RITUALS

- Mar 5 (Mon) Adapting Rituals to the Local Context  
Reading: Lucia Dolce, "The Contested Space of Buddhist Public Rituals: The *shunie* of Tōdaiji" in *Grammars and Morphologies of Ritual Practices in Asia*, eds. Axel Michaels, Anand Mishra, Lucia Dolce, Gil Raz, and Katja Triplett (Harrassowitz, 2010), pp. 433–458.
- Mar 9 (Fri) Field trip to Tōdaiji Shunie: Avalokiteśvara Repentance Ritual  
Nara National Museum special exhibition and Nigatsudō, Tōdaiji
- Mar 12 (Mon) Fire Ceremonies: Vedic Homa to Japanese Esoteric Buddhist Goma  
Readings: Richard K. Payne, *The Tantric Ritual of Japan: Feeding the Gods, the Shingon Fire Ritual* (Delhi: International Academy of Indian Culture: Aditya Prakashan, 1991), pp. 36–51; Musashi Tachikawa, "The Structure of Japanese Buddhist Homa" in Richard K. Payne and Michael Witzel (eds.), *Homa Variations: The Study of Ritual Change across the Longue Durée* (Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 131–137.
- Mar 16 (Fri) Field trip to Tōfukuji and Sennyūji: Parinirvāna Ritual and Paintings  
Reading: Max Moerman, "Dying Like the Buddha: Intervisuality and the Cultic Image," *Impressions* 29 (2007–2008), pp. 25–57.

## TRANSMITTER-MONKS

- Mar 19 (Mon) Xuanzang, *Journey to the West* [India], Relics in Japan  
Readings: Tansen Sen, “The Travel Records of Chinese Pilgrims Faxian, Xuanzang, and Yijing,” *Education About Asia* 11:3 (Winter 2006), pp. 24-33; Akio Donohashi, “Xuanzang and the Priests and Monks who Brought Buddhism to Japan from China,” in *The Silk Road and The World of Xuanzang* (Asahi Shimbun, 1999), pp. 19–22.
- Mar 23 (Fri) Bodhisena, Daoxuan, and Jianzhen in 8<sup>th</sup>-century Nara, end of the Silk Road  
Readings: Ryū Sakuma, “Ganjin (688–763),” in *Shapers of Japanese Buddhism*, eds. Yūsen Kashiwahara and Kōyū Sonoda, transl. Gaynor Sekimori (Tokyo: Kōsei Publishing, 1994), pp. 14–25; selections from Marcus Bingenheimer: “A Translation of the Tōdaiwajō tōseiden.” (Parts 1 and 2) [Rev. PDF edition (ver.1)].
- Mar 24 (Sat) Field trip to Yakushiji (Xuanzang Relic) and Tōshōdaiji (Jianzhen’s Temple)
- Mar 26 (Mon) Kūkai in 9<sup>th</sup>-century Chang’an, the Transmission of Shingon, and Faith in Kōbō Daishi  
Reading: Wm. Theodore de Bary et al. (comp.), *Sources of Japanese Tradition* (2nd ed.), vol.1: *From Earliest Times to 1600*, pp. 153–174.
- Mar 30 (Fri) Field Trip to Tōji  
Reading: Cynthea Bogel, “The Tōji Lecture Hall Statue Mandala and the Choreography of Mikkyō,” in *Esoteric Buddhism and Tantras in East Asia*, eds. Charles D. Orzech, Henrik H. Sorensen, Richard K. Payne (Leiden: Brill, 2011), p. 936–981.
- Apr 2 (Mon) Saichō, Ennin and Enchin in 9<sup>th</sup>-century China, Transmission and

Formation of Tendai

Reading: Wm. Theodore de Bary et al. (comp.), *Sources of Japanese Tradition* (2nd ed.), vol.1: *From Earliest Times to 1600*, pp. 125–152.

Apr 6 (Fri)

Field trip to Sekizanden'in

Readings: selection from *Ennin's Diary, the record of a pilgrimage to China in search of the Law. Translated from the Chinese by Edwin O. Reischauer* (New York: Ronald Press Co., 1955); Robert F. Rhodes, "The Kaihōgyō of Mt. Hiei," *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 14:2-3 (1987), pp. 185–202.

Apr 9 (Mon)

NO CLASS

Apr 13 (Fri)

Course Review

Apr 17–19

Final Exam