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 Sarasvati 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. 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

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

BUDDHIST PANTHEON
Jan 22 (Mon) Navigating the Buddhist Pantheon

Jan 26 (Fri) Field trip to Kōryūji: Buddhist Statuary
Pensive Bodhisattva, Prince Regent Shōtoku, and the Hata Clan
Also recommended: Miyata Noboru, “Types of Maitreya Belief in Japan,” in *Maitreya, the Future Buddha*, pp. 175–190.

Jan 29 (Mon)  Deified Patriarchs

Feb 2 (Fri)  Field trip to Mibudera and Darumadera’s Setsubun Festival

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

Feb 19 (Mon)  Strategies of (Re)presentation: Revealing, Concealing, Magnifying and Multiplying
Readings: Diana L. Eck, *Darśan, Seeing the Divine Image in India* (3rd

Feb 23 (Fri)  
Field Trip to Sanjūsangendō: Multiplying Arms, Heads, and Statues  

Feb 26 and Mar 2  
Spring Break

**RITUALS**

Mar 5 (Mon)  
Adapting Rituals to the Local Context  

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  

Mar 16 (Fri)  
Field trip to Tōfukuji and Sennyūji: Parinirvāna Ritual and Paintings  
TRANSMITTER-MONKS

Mar 19 (Mon) Xuanzang, *Journey to the West* [India], Relics in Japan

Mar 23 (Fri) Bodhisena, Daoxuan, and Jianzhen in 8th-century Nara, end of the Silk Road

Mar 24 (Sat) Field trip to Yakushiji (Xuanzang Relic) and Tōshōdaiji (Jianzhen’s Temple)

Mar 26 (Mon) Kūkai in 9th-century Chang’an, the Transmission of Shingon, and Faith in Kōbō Daishi

Mar 30 (Fri) Field Trip to Tōji

Apr 2 (Mon) Saichō, Ennin and Enchin in 9th-century China, Transmission and
Formation of Tendai


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