Religious Studies 440/540 Buddhist Scriptures, CRN 16077/8, Fall 2016

- Instructor: Mark T. Unno, Office: SCH 334, Tel. 346-4973, Email: munno@uoregon.edu
- Unno Home Page: http://pages.uoregon.edu
- Class meetings: Thursdays 2:00-4:50 p.m., CON 301 Office Hours: Mon., 10:00-10:45 a.m.; Thurs 1:00-1:45 p.m.

Buddhist Scriptures: Zen, Pure Land, and Associated Developments in East Asian Context

This course examines the sacred scriptural traditions of East Asian Buddhism with a focus on Chinese and Japanese Zen, Pure Land Buddhism, and associated developments. This course will closely examine the definition of "scripture" which in East Asian came to mean not only sutra, the teachings of the Buddha, but also commentaries by various masters and other genres. This examination will cover a wide range of themes against the backdrop of social and historical developments, including the development of sectarian traditions, cultural and national identity, gender and race. The seminar format includes lecture, student presentations, and discussion.

Requirements

1. Attendance: Required. Students can have one unexcused absence without penalty. Each class missed thereafter without prior permission will result in 1/2 grade penalty for the course grade.

2. Short exams: There will be two short, in-class exams, based on materials from the readings, lectures, and course web site.

3. Medium papers: There will be two medium-length papers (3-4 pages) based on topics that will be provided by the instructor.

4. Presentation: Students will make a presentation on the readings for one of the section meetings. The presenter should not summarize the reading but should use the presentation to discuss why the selected ideas/passages in question are important for understanding the reading and proceed to explain as well as raise questions about these ideas/passages.

   The primary purpose of these presentations is to launch the discussion, not to demonstrate breadth of knowledge or to lead the discussion. Each presenter will prepare a handout with 2-3 questions and brief, corresponding quotations from the readings.

   More detailed instructions are provided on the course web site.

5. Final paper: Each student will hand in a final paper of 10-12 pages double-spaced (A longer final paper of 12-15 pages will be required for those who have registered for REL540. Suggested topics will be provided. Students may choose to create their own topics with the consent of the instructor. In the case of the latter, a one-paragraph description of the topic must be submitted by email to the instructor one week prior to the due date.

6. Late policy on written assignments: Three grace days total will be allotted excluding the final paper and summaries for which no extensions will be given. For all other written assignments, a cumulative total of three late days will be allowed without penalty. Thereafter, each late day will result in a two-point deduction from the course grade. Weekends are not counted against the grace days.

Grades

- Short exam A 5%
- Short exam B 5%
- Short paper I 15%
- Short paper II 20%
- Final paper 35%
- Presentation 10%
- Discussion 10%

Required Texts (Additional texts will be assigned for those taking REL540.)

   The Copy Shop, 539 East 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon 97401 (541) 485-6253
17. Mark Unno, "Philosophical Terms in the Zen Buddhist Thought of Dogen."
**Weekly Schedule - REL440/540 Buddhist Scriptures**

(CR = Course Reader. Thus, CR3 = Course Reader Article 3; RT = Required Text. Focus readings in asterisks* )

**Week 1, 9/29:** Background of Buddhism: Indian Sutras I
- Peter Harvey, *An Introduction to Buddhism,* 9-26 (CR1).*
- Mark Unno, "Key Ideas - Nagarjuna and the Thought of Emptiness," 1 (CR11).*
- Donald Lopez, Jr., *The Heart Sutra Explained,* 3-9, 19-20 (CR4).

**Week 2, 10/6:** Indian Sutras II
- Mark Unno, *The Karma of Bodhisattva Devadatta* (pdf)*
- Leon Hurvitz, trans., *Scripture of the Lotus Blossom of the Fine Dharma,* ix-xv: 49-64, 195-201 (CR9).*
- Kate Wheeler, "Bowing, Not Scraping," 57-67 (CR28).*

**Week 3, 10/13:** Indian Sutras III: Chinese Philosophical Adaptations  
[Short Exam A in class.]
- Taitetsu Unno, "Philosophical Schools-San-lun, T'ien-t'ai, and Hua-yen" in *Buddhist Spirituality,* ed. by Takeuchi Yoshinori 343-365 (CR12).*
- Mark Unno, "Key Ideas: Taitetsu Unno, 'Philosophical Schools: San-lun, T'ien-t'ai, and Hua-yen" 1-3 (CR8).*

**Week 4, 10/20:** *The Holy Teaching of Vimalakirti: Early Chinese Chan/Zen*  
[Paper I due in class.]
- Robert A. F. Thurman, trans., *The Holy Teaching of Vimalakirti,* Chapters 7 & 8 (RT).*
- Philip Yampolsky, trans., *The Platform Sutra of Hui-neng,* 125-153 (CR15).*

**Week 5, 10/27:** Medieval Japan I: Zen Master Dogen
- Mark Unno, "Philosophical Terms in the Zen Buddhist Thought of Dogen" (CR17).*
- Barbara Ruch, "The Other Side of Culture in Medieval Japan," 500-511 (CR26).*
- Lori Meeks, *Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders,* 250-300 (CR25).*

**Week 6, 11/3:** Medieval Japan II: Pure Land Buddhism of Shinran  
[Paper II due in class.]
- Taitetsu Unno, trans., *Tannisho-A Shin Buddhist Classic* (all pages) (Required Text).*
- Mark Unno, "Pure Land Buddhism of Honen and Shinran" 1-2 (CR21).*

**Week 7, 11/10:** Contemporary Zen, a Jewish American Woman: Natalie Goldberg  
[Short Exam B in class.]
- *Long Quiet Highway* (Required Text), 238.*

**Week 8, 11/17:** Contemporary Pure Land: Coffinman
- Shinmon Aoki, *Coffinman.*

**Week 9, 11/24:** Thanksgiving: No class.

**Week 10, 12/1:** Concluding Lecture/Discussion  
[Final Paper due in class.]
- Student presentations and concluding discussion.


