Centre of Buddhist Studies  
The University of Hong Kong

Undergraduate Courses offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2020-2021

ELECTIVE COURSE  
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC 2003 Zen In East Asia (6 Credits)

Offering Semester  
1st Semester

Lecturer  
Dr. Tony Chui

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CPD 4.12, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus

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Email  
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Day of the week  
Every Tuesday 4:30pm-6:25pm

Assessment  
100% coursework

Class Venue  
CYPP2

1. Course Description:

Zen (禪) is a significant element in the cultural backbone of East Asia. In this course, attention will be focused upon three broad areas of study: Zen thought, its practice, and its impact on the cultures of East Asia. The course will begin with the introduction of proto-Zen from India to China, followed by a description of its basic teachings and historical developments in China, Korea and Japan. Zen practices will be examined through a survey of Zen monastic life. The cultural impact of Zen forms an integral component of this course and, for this purpose, the following themes will be discussed: paintings, poetry (禪詩), and other forms of Zen art in China and Korea; Cha-no-yu (Tea Ceremony), “Haiku” (俳句) poetry, Zen gardens, and swordsmanship in Japan. In this course, students will gain a basic understanding of Zen Buddhism and the impact it has had upon the thought and culture of East Asia.

2. Objectives:

The course is intended for students to gain a basic understanding of Zen Buddhism and its contribution to culture and spirituality of East Asia. Students at the end of this course are expected to gain the ability to: 1) describe the main teachings of Zen Buddhism; 2) recognize the unique teaching method of directly seeing into and training the mind; 3) describe different traditions and interpretations of Zen in China, Korea and Japan; 4) appreciate different cultural activities derived from Zen; and 5) realize the extent of Zen Buddhism’s influence upon the spiritual diversity in East Asia.
3. Assessment Ratio:

100% coursework with the following breakdowns:
(1) Presentation – 25%
(2) Final Essay (2000 words) – 60%
(3) Class participation – 15%

Faculty Grade Expectations: [http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf](http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf)

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. The University upholds the principle that plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and any student found plagiarizing is liable to disciplinary action in addition to failing the assessment concerned. Please read the following webpage on "plagiarism" for details: [http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism](http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism)

4. Schedule of Classes (Tentative):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Origins of Zen Buddhism</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The introduction and development of Zen in China</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The acceptance and development of Zen in Korea and Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Zen thought and practice</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>The aesthetics of Zen</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Zen’s influence on architecture and landscaping</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Zen’s influence on arts and literature</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Zen and spirituality</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Zen and design</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Zen and lifestyle</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Zen’s influence across the globe</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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</tbody>
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5. Reading list:

Compulsory reading:


Suggested reading:


*(Last updated: July 20, 2020)*