Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2020-21
ELECTIVE COURSE
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2028 Chan Buddhism (6 Credit) (Semester 2)

Lecturer: Dr. Mingyuan Gao
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Office: 4.12, 4/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus
Schedule: 16:30-18:20 (Every Thursday)
Venue: CPD-LG.01

Course Description
Chan Buddhism is a mainstream school of Chinese Buddhism that has gained great popularity. It is a representative of Chinese Buddhism to a large extent and plays an important role in the development of Buddhism in East Asia. This course will introduce the history of Chinese Chan Buddhism, including its origin, development, important doctrines, cultural influence, schools and illustrative masters.

Course Objectives
After completing this course, students will acquire solid knowledge of Chinese Chan Buddhism and be able to connect Chan Buddhism with the culture and history of China and East Asia. This course will lay a foundation for students to further study Chinese Buddhism, Chinese culture, and the religious thought in East Asia. This course will also guide students to reflect on the shortcomings of contemporary western interpretations and the future of Chan Buddhism.

Teaching and Learning Method
Lectures and class discussions.

Lecture Schedule (tentative):
Lecture 1. The Character of Chan
Lecture 2. From the Indian Dhyāna to the Chinese Chan: Dhyāna Sūtras and Bodhidharma
Lecture 3. The Inherence of the Chan tradition and the Doctrinal Background
Lecture 4. Huineng and his Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch
Lecture 5. The Hongzhou School and the Chan Practice of Shitou Xiqian
Lecture 6. The Heyday of Chan Buddhism: The Linji School and The Caodong School
Lecture 7. Gong’an (Ko’an)
Lecture 8. The Integration of Chan Buddhism and the Pure Land School in the Ming Dynasty
Lecture 9. The Impact of Chan Buddhism on Chinese Culture
Lecture 10. The Prevailing of Chan Buddhism and Its Spread in East Asia
Lecture 11. Zen in Western Culture
Lecture 12. Chan in Contemporary Vietnam: Master Thích Nhất Hạnh
Week 13. Group Presentation

Course Assessment
Class Participation (10%)
Group Projects (20%)
1500-word short Essay (30%)
2000-word long Essay (40%)

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)

Disability
Any student who has a documented disability and may require special arrangements (seating, testing, later submission, etc.) should consult the instructor in person at the beginning of the course so that provisions can be made.

Recommended Reference Books


**Online Sources:**

43. A Comprehensive History of Chinese Buddhism: [https://www.hinduwebsite.com/buddhism/history/chinesebuddhism.as](https://www.hinduwebsite.com/buddhism/history/chinesebuddhism.as)


46. Film: Biography of the Sixth Patriarch Hui-neng. (English subtitle). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMceiRBHhjY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMceiRBHhjY)

47. Film: Biography of Master Bodhidharma. (English subtitle). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kOvLb4YnRI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kOvLb4YnRI)

*(Last updated: July 21, 2020)*