

BSTC 2003 The Influence of Zen Buddhism on Japanese Aesthetics (6 Credits)

Offering Semester	2 nd Semester
Lecturer	Dr. Tony Chui
Office	CPD 412, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus
Tel	3917-7204
Email	tonychui@hku.hk
Day of the week	TBC
Assessment	100% coursework
Class Venue	TBC

1. Course Description:

Zen (禪) is a significant element in the cultural backbone of Japan. In this course, attention will be focused upon the impact of Zen thought and practice on Japanese culture. The course will begin with the introduction of proto-Zen from India to China, followed by the transmission and development of Zen in Japan. The aesthetic impact of Zen forms are an important component of this course. Zen's influence on the aesthetics of everyday objects, experience, and judgments will be examined through examples in architecture, landscaping, arts, literature, spirituality, and lifestyle. In this course, students will gain a basic understanding of Zen Buddhism and the impact it has had upon the everyday thought and culture of the Japanese people.

2. Objectives:

The course is intended for students who wish to gain a basic understanding of Zen Buddhism and its contribution to the culture and spirituality of Japan. 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) distinguish Zen's impact on the Japanese aesthetics; 5) appreciate different cultural activities derived from Zen; and 6) realize the extent of Zen Buddhism's influence upon the spiritual diversity of Japan.

3. Assessment Ratio:

100 % coursework with the following breakdowns:

1. Quiz 1 – 25 %
2. Quiz 2 – 25 %
3. Research Project – 40 %
4. Attendance – 10 % **(Please sign-in the HKU APP with your registered UID name. Last name first, e.g. Chui Tony.)**

Schedule:

Lecture	Topic
1	Introduction
2	Origin and development of Zen Buddhism
3	The acceptance and development of Zen in Japan
4	Japanese aesthetic values 1
5	Japanese aesthetic values 2
6	Traditional Japanese arts
7	Influence on arts and literature (Quiz 1)
8	Influence on architecture and landscaping
9	Zen and design
10	Zen and lifestyle
11	Influence across the globe (Quiz 2)
12	Zen and contemporary aesthetics