

BSTC2009 Japanese culture and thought: the Buddhist impact**Course Description**

Buddhism was perhaps the first instance of cultural globalization particularly in Asia beginning from the 3rd century B.C. Through missionary zeal it spread far and wide beyond the shores of the Indian subcontinent touching and influencing many lives of Asian peoples.

Since its introduction in the 6th century A.D., Buddhism together with the indigenous religion of Japan called Shintoism and Confucianism of China played a pivotal role in molding ways of thinking of the Japanese people. This course introduces Japanese culture and thought mainly from the Buddhist perspectives making constant references to both common and different features in the ways of thinking between Chinese and Japanese peoples, and also to how Japanese Buddhism and culture including Zen Buddhism, tea ceremony, Japanese cuisine, and other cultural activities became a global phenomenon after the 19th century. The aim is to critically appraise the cultural diversity based on Buddhism and heighten awareness of other cultures through the understanding of Japanese culture and thought.

Lecturer: Dr. Tony Chui Assessment: 100% coursework

Day of the week: TBC Class Venue TBC

Assessment Ratio

100 % coursework with the following breakdowns:

1. Quiz 1 25%
2. Quiz 2 25 %
3. Research Project (Essay 2000 words) – 40 %
4. Participation – 10 %

Lecture	Topic
1	The beginnings of Japanese Buddhism
2	The early acceptance and development
3	Nara Buddhism
4	Heian Buddhism
5	Kamakura Buddhism
6	Buddhism during the age of the samurai (Muromachi and Momoyama period)
7 QUIZ 1	Buddhism during the age of the samurai (Edo period)
8	Buddhist teachings according to the Japanese traditions (1)
9	Buddhist teachings according to the Japanese traditions (2)
10	Buddhist teachings according to the Japanese traditions (3)
11 QUIZ 2	Subjugation of Buddhism and New Movements
12	Buddhism in modern era