

Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2024-25

ELECTIVE COURSE
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2028 Making Sense of Chan Buddhism (6 Credit) (Semester 2)

Lecturer: Dr. Ben Luk

Email: benluk@hku.hk

Schedule: Monday 3:30pm to 5:20pm

Venue: CPD 2.37

Course Description

Chan Buddhism is one of the most important and influential Buddhist schools in China. This course introduces the origin, development, basic doctrines, and cultural influences of Chan Buddhism. Some eminent Chan masters such as Bodhidharma, Huineng, Mazu Daoyi, etc. will be specifically highlighted as to show their significant role in Chan Buddhism. Students will be guided to appreciate and decipher a number of well-known *gong'an* which are characterized by its enigmatic stories and dialogues about religious epiphany.

Course Objectives

After completing the course, students will acquire solid knowledge of Chinese Chan Buddhism and be able to connect this form of Buddhism with the culture and history of China and East Asia. This course will lay a foundation for students to study further Chinese Buddhism and the culture and thought of East Asia (specifically Japan and Korea)

Teaching and Learning Method

Lectures and class discussions.

Lecture Schedule (tentative):

- Lecture 1. Dual Roots of Chan Buddhism: Philosophical Basis and the Legacy of Meditation Practice
- Lecture 2. Bodhidharma: The First Patriarch of Chan Buddhism
- Lecture 3. The East Mountain School (東山法門)
- Lecture 4. Shenxiu (神秀) and The Northern School
- Lecture 5. Huineng (慧能): The Sixth Patriarch (638-713)
- Lecture 6. Two Lineages: The Hongzhou School (洪州宗) and the Shitou School (石頭宗)

Lecture 7. Five Houses: Weiyang (滄仰), Linji (臨濟), Caodong (曹洞), Yunmen (雲門) and Fayan (法眼)

Lecture 8. Chan Buddhism in Song Dynasty (960-1279): A Mature Phase of Chan

Lecture 9. The Origin and Significance of Gong'an Collections

Lecture 10. The Prominent Chan Masters in Song Era: Dahui Zonggao (大慧宗杲) (1089–1163) and Hongzhi Zhengjue (宏智正覺) (1091–1157)

Lecture 11. The Integration of Chan Buddhism and the Pure Land School in the Song Dynasty

Lecture 12. The Transmission of Chan Buddhism across the East Asia

Course Assessment

Class Participation	10%	Attend lectures, and actively participate in class discussion
Two Class Quizzes	30%	Each quiz carries 15%
Chan Poem Writing	10%	Students will be guided to write Chan poems in a creative way.
Mid-term essay (1200-1500 words)	25%	Students are encouraged to delve deep into the topic and present the essay critically and creatively. Submission deadline: before the second lecture after the reading week
Final Quiz	25%	Various types of questions will be asked. Students are expected to have an overall knowledge of the course.

Faculty Grade Expectations: 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>

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

1. Abe, Masao. 1985. *Zen and Western Thought*. Edited by William R. LaFleur. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
2. Adamek, Wendi. 2007. *The Mystique of Transmission: An Early Chan History and Its Contexts*. New York: Columbia University Press.
3. Addiss, Stephen et al. ed. 2008. *Zen Sourcebook: Traditional Documents from China, Korea, and Japan*. Indianapolis: Hackett.
4. Broughton, Jeffrey L. 1999. *The Bodhidharma Anthology: The Earliest Records of Zen*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
5. Buswell, Robert E. Jr. 1987. "The 'Short-cut' Approach of K'an-hua Meditation." In *Sudden and Gradual Approaches to Enlightenment in Chinese Thought*. Edited by Peter N. Gregory. Honolulu: Hawaii University Press: 321-77.
6. Cleary, Thomas. 1978. *Sayings and Doings of Pai-chang*. Los Angeles: Center Publications.
7. *Unlocking the Zen Koan: A New Translation of the Zen Classic Wumenguan*. Berkeley: North Atlantic Books. 1997
8. _____. trans. 2005. *The Blue Cliff Record*. Boston: Shambala.
9. Daoyuan. 2015. *Records of the Transmission of the Lamp*. Translated by Randolph S. Whitfield. Books on Demand.
10. Dumoulin, Heinrich. 2005. *Zen Buddhism: A History, India & China*. Translated by James W. Heisig and Paul Knitter. Bloomington: World Wisdom.
11. *Zen Buddhism in the 20th Century*. 1992. Translated by Joseph S. O'leary. New York: Weatherhill.
12. Faure, Bernard. Ed. 2003. *Chan Buddhism in Ritual Context*. New York: RoutledgeCurzon.
13. Ferguson, Andy. 2011. *Zen's Chinese Heritage: The Masters and Their Teachings*. Somerville: Wisdom Publications.
14. Gardner, Daniel K. "Modes of Thinking and Modes of Discourse in the Sung: Some Thoughts on the *Yü-lu* ("Recorded Conversations") Texts." *Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 50 no.3: 574-603.
15. Gimello, Robert. 1992. "Marga and Culture: Learning, Letters, and Liberation in Northern Sung Ch'an." In *Paths to Liberation: The Marga and its Transformation in Buddhist Thought*. Honolulu: Hawaii University Press, 371-437.

16. Grant, Beata. *Mount Lu Revisited: Buddhism in the Life and Writings of Su Shih*. Honolulu: Hawaii University Press.
17. Gregory, Peter N., and Daniel A. Getz, eds. 1999. *Buddhism in the Sung*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
18. Heine, Steven, and Dale S. Wright, eds. 2000. *The Kōan: Texts and Contexts in Zen Buddhism*. New York: Oxford University Press.
19. _____. *Opening a Mountain: Ko'ans of the Zen Masters*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
20. _____. 2005. *Zen Classics: Formative Texts in the History of Zen Buddhism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
21. _____. 2017. *From Chinese Chan to Japanese Zen: A Remarkable Century of Transmission and Transformation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
22. Hershock, Peter D. 2004. *Chan Buddhism*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
23. Ibuki, Atsushi 伊吹敦. 2001. *Zen no rakish 禅の歴史* [History of Zen]. Kyoto: Hozokan.
24. Jia, Jinhua. 2006. *The Hongzhou School of Chan Buddhism: In Eighth- through Tenth-Century China*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
25. Jorgensen, John A. 2005. *Inventing Hui-neng, the Sixth Patriarch: Hagiography and Biography in Early Chan*. Leiden: Brill.
26. Levering, Miriam Lindsey. 1978. "Ch'an Enlightenment for Laymen: Ta-hui and the New Religious Culture of the Sung." Ph.D. thesis, Harvard University.
27. McDaniel, Richard B. 2016. *Zen Masters of China: The First Step East*. Tuttle Publishing.
28. McRae, John R. 1986. *The Northern School and the Formation of Early Ch'an Buddhism*. Honolulu: Hawaii University Press.
29. _____. 2003. *Seeing through Zen: Encounter, Transformation, and Genealogy in Chinese Chan Buddhism*. Oakland: University of California Press.
30. Melby, Caleb. 2012. *The Zen of Steve Jobs*. Hoboken: Wiley.
31. Nan, Huai-Chin. 1995. *The Story of Chinese Zen*. New York: Charles E. Tuttle Company.
32. Olson, Carl. 2000. *Zen and the Art of Postmodern Philosophy: Two Paths of Liberation from the Representational Mode of Thinking*. New York: State University of New York Press.
33. Poceski, Mario. 2007. *Ordinary Mind as the Way: The Hongzhou School and the Growth of Chan Buddhism*. New York: Oxford University Press.
34. Sasaki, Ruth Fuller and Thomas Yuho Kirchner, trans. and eds. 2011. *The Record of Linji*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

35. Schlütter, Morten. 2008. *How Zen Became Zen: The Dispute Over Enlightenment and the Formation of Chan Buddhism in Song-Dynasty China*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
36. Suzuki, D. T. *An Introduction to Zen Buddhism*. New York: Grove Press.
37. Watson, Burton. 1993. *The Zen Teachings of Master Lin-Chi*. Boston: Shambala.
38. Welter, Albert. 2006. *Monks, Rulers, and Literati: The Political Ascendancy of Chan Buddhism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
39. 2008. *The Linji lu and the Creation of Chan Orthodoxy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
40. Wright, Dale S. 1998. *Philosophical Meditations on Zen Buddhism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
41. Wu, Jiang. 2008. *Enlightenment in Dispute: the Reinvention of Chan Buddhism in Seventeenth-Century China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
42. 袁宾. 中国禅宗语录大观. 南昌: 百花洲文艺出版社, 1991. **FPS Books [中] BQ9267 .C56 /Online**
43. 刘长久. 中国禅门公案. 上海: 知识出版社, 1993. **FPS Books [中] BQ9262.9.C5 .L58 1993 / Online**
44. 黄河涛. 禅宗公案妙语录. 北京市: 中国言实出版社, 2006. **FPS Books [中] BQ9267 .H833 2006 /Online**
45. 李潤生. 禪宗公案. Ontario, Canada: 加拿大安省佛教法相學會, 2016. **FPS Books [中] BQ9262.9.C5 .L488 2016**
46. 楊咏祁. 禪語今釋. 南京: 江蘇人民出版社, 2003. **FPS Books [中] BQ9267 .Y36 2003**
47. 周中一. 禪話. 臺北: 東大圖書有限公司, 1978. (not arranged by stories, but by topics) **FPS Books [中] BQ9267 .Z48 1978**
48. 蕭武桐. 禪之花 : 禪的公案的解說. 台北: 長鯨出版社, 1979. **FPS Books [中] BQ9289.5 .H75**
49. 平田精耕. 無門關. 臺北: 大展出版社有限公司, 1993. **FPS Books [中] BQ9289.H843 H5612 1993**
50. 魏道儒. 禪宗無門關. 臺北: 佛光文化事業有限公司, 1997. **FPS Books [中] BQ9289.H843 W45 1997**
51. 吳怡. 公案禪語. 臺北市: 東大圖書股份有限公司, 2004. **FPS Books [中] BQ9289.5 .W828 2004**

Online Sources:

52. A Comprehensive History of Chinese Buddhism:
<https://www.hinduwebsite.com/buddhism/history/chinesebuddhism.as>

53. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy:
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/buddhism-chan/>
54. Film: The Zen of Steve Jobs. Clips from the documentary: 'Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine' (2015). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDxfean4Lnw>
55. Film: Biography of the Sixth Patriarch Hui-neng. (English subtitle).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMceiRBHjY>
56. Film: Biography of Master Bodhidharma.
(English subtitle). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kOvLb4YnRI>