

## **Cultural Manifestations of Japanese Religions: Architecture, Film, and Modernization**

Instructor: Hoyu Ishida, Professor of Religious Studies, University of Shiga Prefecture  
Guest lecturers (all USP faculty): Professors Takashi Doi, Toshiaki Oji, Walter Klinger,  
and Yoshiyuki Tomishima

### Course Information

This course presents a view of Japanese civilization as formed and influenced by religious expression - particularly Buddhism. Illustrations of this expression are explored through an examination of city and village planning and design, temple and shrine architecture, and films and anime. These examinations are placed in the context of the modernization of Japan. Western views will be compared and contrasted in order to better understand Japanese and Eastern views of life and thought. Viewing of films and anime and field trips to nearby temples, shrines, and traditional Japanese houses and neighborhoods provide adjuncts to classroom lectures.

The goals of the course are to familiarize students with the religious foundations of Japan, and see the manifestations in various media including film and architecture, and also see how those foundations shaped Japan's modernity.

Students will take three quizzes as well as write two papers in consultation with one of the five instructors.

Upon completion of the course, students will have a profound knowledge of Japanese Buddhism and its cultural products, particularly those manifested in town planning, temple and Shinto-influenced architecture, film and thought.

Grades will be based on attendance (30%), quizzes (30%), and the two papers (40%). The midterm paper should be a draft that can be reworked and expanded for the final version to turn in at the end of the course. The final paper (seven to ten pages) is due a week after the final lecture. The paper can cover topics raised in the lectures and field trips, or can focus on a single specific issue that the student is most interested in, in consultation with an instructor. He or she should consult with an instructor and work under the instructor's guidance during the course period. The student may be required to visit the instructor's office.

Materials for reading assignments are available in the JCMU library and at the USP library.

### Schedule

#### Week 1

Hoyu Ishida, Professor: Introduction to Mahayana Buddhism and Japanese Kamakura Buddhism (Reading: Walpola Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught*, pp. 16-50; Hoyu Ishida, "Shinjin and Satori in the Here and Now-Flower Yet Fall As People Lament," pp. 43-67)

#### Week 2

Introductory Remarks Professor Ishida

Guest Lecturer: Toshiaki Oji, Professor: "Modernization" in Japanese history-From Ancient through Modern Times (Reading: to be assigned)

### Week 3

Introductory Remarks Professor Ishida

Guest Lecturer: Toshiaki Oji, Professor: "Modernization" in Japanese history-From Ancient through Modern Times (Part II) (Reading: to be assigned)

### Week 4

Introductory Remarks Professor Ishida

Guest Lecturer: Takashi Doi, Professor: Characteristics of Japanese culture particularly architecture influenced by Shinto as seen through design and planning aspects of houses, villages and cities. Prof. Doi will provide a list of Japanese technical architectural terms for the students increased awareness of architecture and Japanese language. (Reading: Norbert Schoenauer, "The Traditional House in China" and "The Japanese Urban House in Kyoto" in 6,000 Years of Housing, pp.193-203 and pp. 204-208; Hugh Fraser, A Diplomatist's Wife in Japan: Letters from Home to Home, Vols. I, pp. 53-75) There will be Quiz 1 based on the lecture by Professor Oji.

### Week 5

Introductory Remarks Professor Ishida

Guest Lecturer: Takashi Doi, Professor: Characteristics of Japanese culture particularly architecture influenced by Shinto as seen through design and planning aspects of houses, villages and cities. (Part II) (Reading: Norbert Schoenauer, "The Traditional House in China" and "The Japanese Urban House in Kyoto" in 6,000 Years of Housing, pp.193-203 and pp. 204-208; Hugh Fraser, A Diplomatist's Wife in Japan: Letters from Home to Home, Vols. II. pp. 143-167)

### Week 5, part 2

Introductory Remarks Professor Ishida

Guest Lecturer: Takashi Doi, Professor: Full day field trip to traditional Japanese houses in Gokasho-cho, Kanzaki and Omihachiman in Shiga.

Midterm paper due

### Week 6

Hoyu Ishida, Professor: Time-Space Inter-formation in Eastern Philosophy, with emphasis on Buddhism and particularity and universality of world religions (Reading: Hoyu Ishida, "Otto's Theory of Religious Experience as Encounter with the Numinous and Its Application to Buddhism," pp. 19-33; Hoyu Ishida, "A Bodhisattva Ideal in the Here and Now," pp. 99-128). Quiz 2 based on the lecture by Professor Doi.

### Week 7

Introductory Remarks Professor Ishida

Guest Lecturer: Walter Klinger, Associate Professor: Aspects of Japanese religion as interpreted and reflected in Japanese films. (Reading: assignments available on photocopy at JCMU).

## Week 8

Introductory Remarks Professor Ishida

Guest Lecturer: Walter Klinger, Associate Professor: Aspects of Japanese religion as interpreted and reflected in Japanese anime. (Reading: Samurai from outer space. pp.33-65). Quiz 3 based on the lecture by Professor Ishida.

## Week 8, part 2 (Saturday)

Introductory Remarks Professor Ishida

Guest Lecturer: Yoshiyuki Tomishima, Associate Professor: Field trip to national treasure Buddhist temples (Saimyoji and Kongorinji) in Shiga. (Reading: National Treasures of Japan)

## Week 9

Hoyu Ishida, Professor: Time-Space Inter-formation in Eastern Philosophy, with emphasis on Buddhism and particularity and universality of world religions (Part II). Course Wrap up: Students are required to present in class an outline of what they are going to do for the final paper.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Walpola Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught*. (Grove Press)

Richard Robinson, *The Buddhist Religion*. (Wadsworth)

Byron Erhart, *Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity*. (Dickenson)

D.T Suzuki, *Zen and Japanese Culture*. (Princeton)

*Nihon no Kokutakara (National Treasures of Japan)*. (Shukan Asahi Hakka)

Norbert Schoenauer, *6,000 Years of Housing*. (W.W. Norton)

Hugh Fraser, *A Diplomatist's Wife in Japan: Letters from Home to Home*, Vols. I & II. (Hutchinson)

John Reddie Black, *The Far East*.

Donald Richie. 2001. *A hundred years of Japanese film: a concise history, with a selective guide to videos and DVDs*. (Kodansha)

Darrell William Davis. 1996. *Picturing Japaneseness: monumental style, national identity, Japanese film*. (Susquehanna Univ Press)

Antonia Levi. 1996. *Samurai from outer space: understanding Japanese animation*. (Open Court Press)

Hoyu Ishida, "Otto's Theory of Religious Experience as Encounter with the Numinous and Its Application to Buddhism" in *Japanese Religion.s*

Hoyu Ishida, "A Bodhisattva Ideal in the Here and Now" in *The Pure Land*

Hoyu Ishida, "Shinjin and Satori in the Here and Now-Flower Yet Fall As People Lament" in *Academic Reports of the University Center for Intercultural Education, the University of Shiga Prefecture*.