REL/PHI 4xxx
Selected Topics in
East Asian Buddhism

NEH/ASDP Summer 2018 Institute
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Purpose of project

• Religious Studies focused course advancing study of Buddhism at UNF
• Interdisciplinary methodologies
• Flexible and changeable to students’ and my interests
• Can be organized geographically or topically, to varying levels of focus
  • Ex. Focus on China, focus on Pure Land across East Asia, etc.
• Modules that can be exchanged across different iterations
• NOT text centered: material culture and practice over philosophy
• Audience: students who have taken either Introduction to Buddhism or another East Asian focused philosophy, RS, or history course
First Draft: Site-specific course + study abroad

**China**: Yungang Caves, Xi’an, Mt. Emei, Guilin, Hangzhou, Beijing

**Korea**: Yellow Dragon Monastery, Seokguram Grotto, Seoul

**Japan**: Nara, Mt. Koya, Kyoto

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Second Draft: Women and Gender in East Asian Buddhism

• "What about the women?"
• Women’s experiences as “holographic” entry point into study
• 15 weeks
  • 2 weeks of introduction and theory
    • Feminist theory and study of religion
    • Historical and ethnographic methods
  • 6 weeks of history
    • 2 weeks each for China, Korea, and Japan
    • Selections from Mitchell and Jacoby
  • 6 weeks of contemporary study
    • 2 weeks each for China, Korea, and Japan
  • Final week for presentations/papers

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Student learning objectives

After completing the course, successful students should be able to:

• Describe the formulative history of Chinese, Korean, and Japanese Buddhist traditions;

• Identify some of the benefits, challenges, and theoretical perspectives that are related to focusing on women in the study of religion;

• Articulate some of the complex issues surrounding women and Buddhist practice in contemporary East Asia;

• Demonstrate an increased sophistication in their writing about Buddhism; and

• Ruminate on issues and ideas from the readings and class discussion.
China

• Historical Perspective: Selections from
  • Grace Schireson, *Zen Women*
  • Nancy Schuster, “Striking a Balance: Women and Images of Women in Early Chinese Buddhism”
  • Beata Grant, *Daughters of Emptiness*
  • Kate Lingley, “Lady Yuchi in the First Person: Patronage, History, and Voice in the Guyang Cave”
  • Kathryn Tsai, *Lives of the Nuns*

• Contemporary Buddhism: Selections from
  • Elise Anne Devido, *Taiwan’s Buddhist Nuns*
  • Yuan Yuan, “Chinese Buddhist Nuns in the Twentieth Century: A Case Study in Wuhan”
Korea

• Historical Perspective: Selections from
  • Cho Eun-su, “Female Buddhist Practice in Korea”
  • Heung-sik Heo, “Two Female Masters of Two Eras: Differences and Commonalities in Roles”
  • John Jorgensen, “Marginalized and Silenced: Buddhist Nuns of the Choson Period”

• Contemporary Buddhism: Selections from
  • Jin Park, “Gendered Response to Modernity: Kim Iryop and Buddhism”
  • Pori Park, “The Establishment of Buddhist Nunneries in Contemporary Korea”
  • Martine Bachelor, Women in Korean Zen: Lives and Practices
  • Im Kwon Taek’s Come Come Come Upwards (film)
Japan

• Historical Perspective: Selections from
  • Barbara Ruch, *Engendering Faith*
  • Lori Meeks, *Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan*
  • James Dobbins, *Letters of the Nun Eshinni*
  • Grace Schireson, *Zen Women*

• Contemporary Buddhism: Selections from
  • Paula Kane Robinson Arai
  • Noriko Kawahashi, “Jizoku (Priests’ Wives) in Soto Zen Buddhism”
  • Jessica Starling, “Neither Nun nor Laywoman: The Good Wives and Wise Mothers of Jodo Shinshu Temples”
  • Matthew Mitchell, “…Takatsukasa Seigyoku, Current Abbess of Zenkoji’s Daihongan Convent”
Women and Buddhism

- Lotus Sutra excerpts
- Vimalakirti Sutra excerpts
- Guanyin! Blood pool hell

- Zenshin Florence Caplow, *The Hidden Lamp*
- Caitlin Griffiths, *Tracing the Itinerant Path: Jishu Nuns of Medieval Japan*
- Ellison Banks Findley, *Women’s Buddhism, Buddhism’s Women*
- Diana Paul, *Women in Buddhism: Images of the Feminine in the Mahayana Tradition*
- Christine Toomey, *In Search of Buddha’s Daughters*
- Rita Gross, *Buddhism beyond Gender: Liberation from Attachment to Identity; Buddhism After Patriarchy*

*Bibliography of works on women and gender in Buddhism*
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