

**CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY**  
**University Honors Program**  
**One University Drive**  
**Orange, CA 92866**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**HON 335**

**Spring 2010**

The Enigma of Being Awake: Zen Buddhism

Catalog Description:

*Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor.*

This course will involve a three-part study: first, we will explore the history of Buddhism in general and Zen Buddhism in particular; second, we will investigate the central concept of *anatta*, along with attendant Buddhist concepts, and critically examine the Zen claim of ‘immediacy’ – that is, the intimacy of Buddha-nature; third, we will experimentally engage in *dharma* practices employed in Zen Buddhists. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits.

Course Objectives:

1. To study the history, truth-claims, and practices of Buddhism in general and of Zen Buddhism in particular.
2. To become better global citizens (a) by becoming familiar with the “other,” as represented by a coherent body of material, on its own terms (to the extent that that is possible), (b) by using the experience of the fusion of our familiar world with that which is “other” when approaching issues framed by other disciplines, and (c) by increasing our critical appreciation for what counts as knowledge, how it is organized, and whom it serves.

Content:

The study of Zen Buddhism includes both conceptual and practical aspects. This course will begin with consideration of basic Buddhist concepts, which will be combined with a survey of the historical roots of Zen Buddhism in India, China, and Japan. Such study may lead to the “stream of Zen” but entrance into that stream requires more than intellectual curiosity or theoretical familiarity; it requires the inquiry associated with *dharma* practice. Such inquiry is the substance of Buddhism. Consequently, this course will include a practical component, namely, the practice of sitting meditation (the main practice of Zen Buddhism) and koan study.

Current Required Texts:

1. Buksbaze, John. D. *Zen Meditation in Plain English*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2002.
2. Dumoulin, Heinrich. *Zen Enlightenment: Origins and Meaning*. Translated by John C. Maraldo. New York: Weatherhill, 1979.
3. Foster, Nelson and Jack Shoemaker, eds. *The Roaring Stream: A New Zen Reader*. Hopewell, New Jersey, 1996.
4. Kapleau, Philip. *Three Pillars of Zen*. New York: Anchor Books, 2000.

5. Rahula, Walpola Sri. *What the Buddha Taught*. Revised Edition. New York: Grove Press, 1974.
6. Robinson, H. Richard and Willard L. Johnson. *Buddhist Religions: A Historical Introduction*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1997.
7. Suzuki, Shunryu. *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*. Edited by Trudy Dixon. New York: Weatherhill, 1973.
8. *The Diamond Sutra & The Sutra of Hui-Neng*. Translated by A. F. Price and Wong Mou-lam. Boston: Shambhala, 1990.

Instructional Strategies:

1. This class will be a seminar. Sometimes mini-lectures will be given to establish a context and conceptual framework for readings so as to enhance seminar conversations.
2. Students are expected to arrive at their own conclusions about issues discussed, to be able to give reasons for their conclusions, and to sympathetically understand why others may disagree.

Methods of Evaluation:

There will be a minimum two one-hour exams during the semester, one final comprehensive exam, regular quizzes covering reading materials, and a final research paper.

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:

Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Disability Services Office, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

**Prepared by:**

Carmichael Peters, Spring 2010

**Last Revised:**

Carmichael Peters, Spring 2010