

Osaka Gakuin University 2023-2024 Spring Semester

Buddhism and Film

Instructor :

Jason Bartashius

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Lesson: Tuesday 13:30-15:15, Friday 15:30-17:15

Subject code : 2052

Course Description:

This course aims to introduce basic tenets of Buddhism and cover contemporary issues pertaining to Japanese and Western Buddhist traditions—with an emphasis on those with roots in Japan. The medium of film will be used to demonstrate how the socio-religious is represented in film. The syllabus is subject to change depending on the class flow.

Resources:

Reading materials will be provided

Evaluation:

Participation 25%

Midterm Exam 25%

Final Exam 25%

Research Paper 25%

Notes:

Course Schedule:

Course starts from the week of 2/5

Week 1: Life of Siddhartha Gautama

Week 2: (Japanese) Mahāyāna Buddhism

Week 3: Film: Departures

Week 4: (Japanese) Vajrayāna Buddhism

Week 5: Film: Shugendo Now

Week 6: Buddhism and Japanese New Religions

Week 7: Film: A

Week 8: Orientalist Imaginings of Buddhism and the East

Week 9: Lost Horizon and Kundun

Week 10: Women in Buddhist Texts and Histories

Week 11: Film: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter . . . and Spring

Week 12: Same-Sex Relations and Homophobia in Buddhist Communities

Week 13: Buddhism and Ethno-nationalism