

**HSP Spring 2019**  
**How Buddhism Changed World Civilization?**

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**Tuesdays, 1 PM - 3 PM**

January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 3, 17, 24, 31, and April 7, 2020

**LOCATION:**

Dorothy Rubel Room - 1508 E. Helen St

**Brief Bio:**

Prof. Jiang Wu (Ph. D. Harvard University 2002) has taught various courses about Buddhism for many years in the Department of East Asian Studies. He is currently director of the Center for Buddhist Studies. His major publications include *Enlightenment in Dispute: The Reinvention of Chan Buddhism in Seventeenth-century China* (Oxford 2008); *Leaving for the Rising Sun: Chinese Zen Master Yinyuan and the Authenticity Crisis in Early Modern East Asia* (Oxford 2015); and *Spreading Buddha's Word in East Asia: The Formation and Transformation of the Chinese Buddhist Canon* (Columbia 2016).

**Course Description:**

How did Buddhism change world civilization? This is a puzzling question for many people interested in philosophy, spirituality, and practice. As a major religious tradition, Buddhism deserves our attention because of its increasingly strong presence in the West and its power to shape our culture. This course is designed to introduce you to Buddhist core beliefs, meditative practice, history, major sects, and its encounter with different cultures, including the West. Moving chronologically and geographically, we will survey the various kinds of Buddhism across Asia and the West. From this class you will gain a deeper understanding of what enlightenment and civilization mean historically and spiritually.

**Format of the Class: reading, sharing, lecture, video watching, discussion, no written homework.**

## **Suggested Readings Which Will be Used**

Damien Keown, *Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996).

William Theodore de Bary, *The Buddhist Tradition in India, China and Japan* (New York: Vintage Books, 1972).

Richard Gombrich, *Theravada Buddhism: A Social History from Ancient Benares to Modern Colombo* (Routledge, 2006)

Bill Porter, *Zen Baggage: A Pilgrimage to China* (Counterpoint, 2010)

Daniel Cozort, *The Highest Tantra* (Snow Lion, 2005)

Donald S. Lopez Jr., *A Modern Buddhist Bible: Essential Readings from East and West*. (Beacon Press, 2002)

Michael Downing, *Shoes outside the Door: Desire, Devotion, and Excess at San Francisco Zen Center* (Counterpoint Press, 2000).

## **Weekly Program**

(Page ranges in the readings will be assigned before each class.)

Week 1 (Jan. 28): The Legend of the Buddha and his Essential Teaching in India  
Video: "Buddhism, Footprint of the Buddha."

Readings: Keown, de Bary.

Week 2 (Feb. 4): Theravada: The Teaching of the Elders in Southeast Asian

Readings: Gombrich.

Week 3 (Feb. 11): The Rise of Mahayana and its Spread in Central Asia

Readings: de Bary.

Week 4 (Feb. 18): Tibetan Buddhism in Theory and Practice

Readings: Cozort.

Week 5 (Feb. 25): Chinese Buddhism: Conquest or Transformation?

Video: "Buddhism in China"

Reading: de Bary.

Week 6 (March 3): Chan/Zen Buddhism in East Asia

Readings: Porter.

Week 7 (March 17): Dogen and Japanese Buddhism

Film: "Land of Disappearing Buddhas"  
Readings: de Bary.

Week 8 (March 24): The Awakening of the West: Buddhism and Modernity  
Film: "Lotus in the West"  
Reading: Lopez.

Week 9 (March 31): Buddhism Americanized? The Case of an American Zen Center  
Readings: Downing.

Week 10 (April 7): Buddhism and Civilization: Discussion, Reflection and Presentation.