

# Chan Buddhism and the Chinese Ancestors

Spring Term 2014  
Seminary Class Syllabus

The seminary class offering for the spring 2014 term will be **Chan Buddhism and the Chinese Ancestors**. This ten-week class series is scheduled for Tuesday evenings from February 4th through April 15th. During this class series, we will examine the stories and traditional teachings of and about our Chinese Dharma ancestors and other significant Chan masters from the time of Bodhidharma, through the Tang and Sung Dynasties to and including Tiantong Rujing. Through these stories, we experience the particular way in which we hold the memory of our lineage tradition. We will also follow the development of Chan as it gains color and additional meaning through the authenticity and uniqueness of each generation to become an important cultural force in Chinese and other East Asian societies.

The primary text for the reading assignments for each class (listed below) is Zen's Chinese Heritage: The Masters and their Teachings by Andy Ferguson either the first (2000) edition or the expanded (2011) edition. Optional, supplemental text materials will include sections from (1) The Platform Sutra: The Zen Teaching of Hui-neng by Red Pine and (2) Zen Buddhism: A History: Volume 1, India and China by Heinrich Dumoulin. Texts may be purchased; however, copies of all three texts will be placed on reserve for this class in the DRZC library. The classes will be led by Fumyo Mishaga, Genko Rainwater, and Allison Shin'ei Brown.

For Seminary credit, each student will be required to complete a written assignment. Also, class attendance will be considered a very important criterion. No class is scheduled during the Daijukai retreat.

| <u>Class</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Topics</u>  |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| 1            | 4-Feb       | Introduction; Course objectives; historical overview<br>Chan Legendary Period 480 -755<br><u>Ancestors</u> : <b>Bodhidharma</b><br><u>Reading Assignment</u> : Ferguson: pp. 1-20.*  |
| 2            | 11-Feb      | 2nd and 3rd generations (Sui Dynasty); <i>Faith in Mind</i><br>Chan Legendary Period 480 -755<br><u>Ancestors</u> : <b>Dazu Huike</b> and <b>Jianzhi Sengcan</b><br><u>Reading Assignment</u> : Ferguson: pp. 20-25.*<br>Supplemental Reading: <i>Faith in Mind</i> : Ferguson: pp. 461-465. |
| 3            | 18-Feb      | 4th and 5th generations (Tang Dynasty); Oxhead School<br>Chan Legendary Period 480 -755<br><u>Ancestors</u> : <b>Dayi Daoxin</b> and <b>Daman Hongren</b><br><u>Important Teachers</u> : Niutou Farong<br><u>Reading Assignment</u> : Ferguson: pp. 25-37.*                                  |
| 4            | 25-Feb      | <b><i>The Platform Sutra</i></b><br><u>Ancestors</u> : <b>Dajian Huineng</b> (Caoxi)<br><u>Reading Assignment</u> : <b><i>The Platform Sutra</i></b> : Sections 1 through 48<br>(Tunhuang museum edition translated by Red Pine)   |

- 5 4-Mar 6th generation (Tang Dynasty); Northern and Southern Schools  
Chan Legendary Period 480 -755  
Ancestors: **Dajian Huineng** and Yuquan Shenxiu  
Heze Shenhui and the Southern School  
Reading Assignment: Ferguson: pp. 37-45.\*
- 6 11-Mar 7th-9th generations (Tang Dynasty)  
Chan Classical Period  
Ancestors: Qingyuan Xingsi, **Shitou Xiqian**, and Yaoshan Weiyuan  
Important Teachers:  
Nanyang Huizhong, Mazu Daoyi, Baizhang Huaihai, Layman Pang,  
Zhaozhu Congshen, Yongjia Xuanjue, others  
  
Reading Assignment: Ferguson: pp. 45-116.\*  
Supplemental Reading: *Song of Realization*
- 18-Mar DAIJUKAI -- No Class
- 7 25-Mar 10th-12th generations (Tang Dynasty); Buddhist Persecution (841 -846)  
Chan Classical Period  
Ancestors: Yunyan Tansheng, **Dongshan Liangjie**, and Yunju Daoying  
Important Teachers: Huangbo Xiyun, **Linji Yixuan**, Deshan Xuanjian,  
Guishan Lingyou, Caoshan Benji, Ling Zhao, Liu Tiemo, **Moshan Liaoran**  
Reading Assignment: Ferguson: pp. 117-248.\*
- 8 1-Apr 13th-17th generations (The Five Dynasties); the Caoxi break and reformation  
Chan Classical Period 755 - 950  
Ancestors: Tongan Daopi, Tongan Guanzhi, Liangshan Yuanguan, **Dayang Jingxuan**,  
and **Touzi Yiqing**  
Important Teachers: Yunmen Wenyan, Fayan Wenyi, **Fushan Fayuan**,  
Reading Assignment: Ferguson: pp. 249-370.\*
- 9 8-Apr 18th-24th generations (Sung Dynasty)  
Chan Literary Period 950 - 1260  
Ancestors: Furong Daokai, Danxia Zichun through **Tiantong Riuqing**,  
also Eihei Dogen  
Important Teachers: **Hongzhi Zhengjue**, Dahui Zonggao  
Reading Assignment: Ferguson: pp. 371-455.\*
- 10 15-Apr Current status of places important to the development of Chan  
& our lineage heritage;  
Kyogen will present a photographic tour of Chan heritage sites visited  
during the recent DRZC trip to China

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\* = page numbers refer to sections in **Zen's Chinese Heritage**, First edition