

**Class 100: Introduction to Religion      Instructor: Rev. Bryan Emyo Siebuhr**

Religion, like culture, is a symbolic transformation of experience. Religious traditions, whether they be your own or that of others, affects you in some way nearly every day. For example, religion affects your world and cultural outlook. However, when it comes to our own human condition, we may argue that religion holds no relevance. Likewise, we live in an age when many religious institutions face declining interest as well as membership. What is religion? Does religion matter in this age of rapid technological advancements or is it simply an outdated institution? This class will discuss these questions and more. Your participation in class discussion is welcome.

**Class 200: Introduction to Buddhism      Instructor: Rev. Bryan Emyo Siebuhr**

Buddhism is the teaching expounded by the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni, during his forty-five year ministry. The course covers the meaning of the term Buddhism and of terms associated with various schools, the development of southern Buddhism, and the specific meaning of the three treasures. Basic divisions of physical and mental phenomena and how to regard it in order to attain the Buddhist ideal will be covered. Also discussed will be the Four Seals of the Law, dependent origination, the cycle of suffering, Four Noble Truths, methods of practice for attainment of the Buddhist ideal, and hindrances to the attainment of the ideal.

This is an introductory class and assumes no previous knowledge of Buddhism or Asian Philosophy. Completion of Class 100: Introduction to Religion is suggested but not required.

**Class 300: Introduction to Jodo Shinshu – The True Pure Land Teachings**

**Instructor: Rev. Bryan Emyo Siebuhr**

The sect of the school of the True Pure Land Teachings (Jodo Shinshu) is the largest Buddhist tradition in Japan though lesser known of the Japanese Buddhist traditions outside of Japan. Jodo Shinshu is a non-meditative Japanese Buddhist tradition offering the possibility for everyone to attain enlightenment (awakening) regardless of their life circumstances.

This course covers the history and development of Japanese Pure Land Buddhism culminating in The True Pure Land Teachings. This is to include an examination of the Mahayana mode of thought focusing on the content of the Buddha's enlightenment, the origins of Pure Land thought emerging from the Bodhisattva ideal, and the wisdom-compassion that lies at the heart of all Mahayana thought. Lastly, this course will address the radical transformation of the Pure Land tradition by Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) and the implications it holds for us living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Completion of Class 200: Introduction to Buddhism is highly recommended prior to enrolling in this course in order to provide a more meaningful experience.

**Class 400: A Survey of Japanese Buddhism      Instructor: Rev. Bryan Emyo Siebuhr**

This course will address the history and development of Japanese Buddhism from pre-Buddhist Japan through the development of Nara Buddhism, the foundation of Japanese Buddhism; Heian Buddhism including Tendai Buddhism (The Teaching of the Lotus); Shingon esoteric Buddhism, Pure Land Buddhism, Nichiren, and Zen. This course will present an overview of the history of each tradition in addition to a general outline of the core teachings and practices of that tradition.

Completion of Class 200: Introduction to Buddhism is highly recommended prior to enrolling in this course in order to provide a more meaningful experience.

## 2009 Course Schedule

**All lectures are on Saturday and begin at 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.**

**Suggested Donation:**

**\$50.00 non Temple members**

**\$20.00 for Temple pledge members**

**The following courses will be offered:**

**Series 1: Introduction to Religion**

**February 7, 14, 21 and March 7**

**Series 2: Introduction to Buddhism**

**May 2, 9, 16 and 23**

**Series 3: Introduction to Jodo Shinshu**

**July 11, 18, 25 and August 1**

**Series 4: Introduction to Japanese Buddhism**

**October 3, 10, 17 and 24**

**All classes will meet at the Midwest Buddhist Temple located at 435 W. Menomonee Street, Chicago, IL.**

**For more information, please contact MBT at:**

**Phone: (312) 943-7801**

**Email: [minister@midwestbuddhisttemple.org](mailto:minister@midwestbuddhisttemple.org).**

**Enrollment Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Contact Phone**  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Course**  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Member/Non-**  
**Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuition Amount**  
**Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**

**The Midwest Buddhist Temple**

**Please detach and send with payment**  
**to:**



*The Midwest Buddhist Temple offers a diverse selection of classes for any young adult or adult seeking to learn more about Buddhism and the True Pure Land Buddhist Teachings.*

*These classes are open to both the MBT membership and the greater community of the Chicago metropolitan area.*

**Midwest Buddhist  
Temple  
Course Offerings**



**2009**

**435 W. Menomonee St.  
Chicago, IL 60614  
(312) 943-7801**

[www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org](http://www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org)