

# Exploring Japanese Buddhism

The Development of Buddhism in Japan from Ancient Roots to the Modern World

## PART 1

### Buddhism in Ancient Japan

Lecturer: **Thomas Newhall** Lecturer, University of Tokyo  
Dates: Thursday, April 23 / May 14 / June 18



## PART 2

### Buddhism in Medieval Japan

Lecturer: **Michael Conway** Associate Professor, Otani University  
Dates: Thursday, July 16 / August 20 / September 24



## PART 3

### Buddhism in Modern Japan

Lecturer: **Mitsuhiro Kameyama** Lecturer, Musashino University  
Dates: Thursday, October 29 / November 26 / December 17



This course explores the overall development of Buddhism in Japan across the ancient, medieval, and modern periods, focusing on its major historical transitions and representative doctrines. All lectures will be conducted in English.

Participation Fee Per Part – 3 sessions: JPY 6,000 including tax / Full Program – all parts: JPY 13,500 including tax

Venue Bukkyo Dendo Center Building, 4-3-14 Shiba, Minato-ku, Tokyo / Simultaneous online delivery via Zoom

Schedule Part 1: April 23, May 14, June 18 Part 2: July 16, August 20, September 24 Part 3: October 29, November 26, December 17

Time 18:30–20:00 Japan Time

## How to Apply

Please apply by accessing our website in Japanese via the URL or QR code. If you require assistance in English, please send your name and a message indicating your wish to participate to the email address below.

Website: <https://www.bdk.or.jp/> E-mail: [event@bdk.or.jp](mailto:event@bdk.or.jp)



## Our Lecturers

### PART 1 **Thomas Newhall** Lecturer at Tokyo University

Thomas Newhall is a Lecturer in the Department of Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies at the University of Tokyo. He completed his PhD in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at UCLA in 2025, and received master's degrees from the University of Tokyo (2016) and Foguang University (2012) in Taiwan, and a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College (2007) in Ohio prior to that. His research focuses on the development of monasticism and monastic literature in China and Japan.

### PART 2 **Michael Conway** Associate Professor at Otani University

Michael Conway is currently an associate professor in the Shin Buddhist Studies Department at Otani University in Kyoto. He received his BA from Northwestern University in 1997 and entered the Master's program in Shin Buddhist Studies at Otani in 2003. He completed his MA at Otani in 2005 and his PhD there in 2011. After serving departmental assistant for the Shin Buddhist Studies Department at Otani and the managing editor of *The Eastern Buddhist*, he joined the faculty at Otani University in 2015.

### PART 3 **Mitsuhiro Kameyama** Assistant Professor at Musashino University

Mitsuhiro Kameyama is an Assistant Professor at Musashino University and a PhD candidate at Princeton University. He specializes in modern Japanese Buddhism, with broader interests in monastic discipline, ritual, historiography, modern thought, and negotiations between Buddhism and the state. His first book, *Shaku Unshō to Kairitsu no Kindai*, a study of the monk Shaku Unshō and his precept-revival movement in modern Japan, received the Japanese Association for Religious Studies Award and the Ninth Nakamura Hajime Prize for the Promotion of Oriental Studies.

## Lecture Topics

### PART 1 Theme: Formation of Japanese Buddhism

Class 1 From India to "the land of Wa": The transmission of Buddhism to Japan and the development of the early clergy

Class 2 From the Great Tang Dynasty to Tōdai-ji: What did Ganjin bring to Japan?

Class 3 From Nara to Kyōto: The Shingon and Tendai clergy, precepts, and precept platforms

### PART 2 Theme: An Overview of the Teachings of the New Schools of Buddhism in the Kamakura Period

Class 1 The Roots of Kamakura Buddhism in the Tendai School's Teachings

Class 2 An Overview of the Teachings of the Pure Land Schools

Class 3 An Overview of the Teachings of the Zen and Nichiren Schools

### PART 3 Theme: Japanese Buddhism in modern era

Class 1 From Tokugawa Buddhism to Modern Buddhism: Continuity and Rupture

Class 2 Many Faces of Meiji Buddhism: Crisis and Transformation

Class 3 Between Empire and Modernity: Japanese Buddhism in the First Half of the 20th Century

## How to Join Online

A Zoom link and a link to download the lecture materials will be sent to you one week prior to the lecture. Please join the session via Zoom on the day.

## Language

The lectures will be conducted in English.

## Access to the Venue

Bukkyo Dendo Center Building, 8th Floor  
4-3-14 Shiba, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0014, Japan  
TEL: 03-3455-5851

7-minute walk from JR Tamachi Station (Mita Exit / West Exit)

3-minute walk from Mita Station (Exit A9) on the Toei Mita Line or Toei Asakusa Line

Please note that parking is not available.

## ■Contact■

E-mail: [event@bdk.or.jp](mailto:event@bdk.or.jp) / Phone: 03-3455-5851

- We are unable to offer refunds for cancellations due to personal circumstances.
- Please note that the schedule and lecture topics are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.