

The Many Faces of Hawai'i Buddhism: Mahayana Buddhist Traditions

Monday, Tues, Wed, Friday evenings, 4 sessions, 630-830pm, June 26,27,28,30
Buddhist Study Center Classroom

Instructor: Dr. George Tanabe, UH Emeritus Professor of Religion

Course Objective

The primary goal of this course is to help students gain a basic understanding of the variety of forms found within Buddhism. Through the study of central objects of worship and their stories—this course will introduce the various beliefs and practices of one of the world's major religions. Looking at various Mahayana Buddhisms in Hawai'i will enable students to place them into their proper contexts and explore some of the important issues that confront Buddhism today.

Course Learning Opportunities

By the end of the course we will have had the opportunity to:

- Examine the basic beliefs and practices of Buddhism.
- Develop an understanding and sense of appreciation for the unity and diversity of the various paths in Buddhism.
- Comprehend the historical context for and development of the Buddhist tradition.
- Describe the major forms and expressions in Buddhism.
- Evaluate critically and objectively the various issues and themes in Buddhism.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for the course. Suggested readings to further understanding:
Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii, Tanabe, George J.; Tanabe, Willa Jane, 2012

Class Etiquette

All questions and inquiries are welcome. There is no such thing as a “silly” question or irrelevant point of view so feel free to ask questions, comment on, or even challenge the material presented in class.

Class Schedule

Class #1:	The Dharma of Shakyamuni
Class #2:	The Esoteric Buddhisms of Tendai and Shingon
Class #3:	The Pure Land Buddhisms of Honen and Shinran
Class #4:	Dogen's Zen and Nichiren's Lotus Faith

Class schedule is subject to change and may be adapted to suit the interest of the course participants.