

Pure Land Buddhism and the Shin Path: Introduction to Jodo Shinshu

Monday Evenings, 6 classes, 630-830pm, November 6,13,20,27, Dec 4,11

Buddhist Study Center

Instructor: Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki

Course Objective

The goal is to help newcomers to Jodo Shinshu (Shin) Buddhism gain a basic understanding of the concepts and rituals of this 800-year-old Buddhist tradition that came to Hawaii over 125 years ago. Learn the similarities and differences of Shin Buddhism, fundamental Buddhist philosophy, and other Buddhist paths. The classes are held in an informal, question & answer setting.

Course Learning Opportunities

By the end of the course newcomers to Shin Buddhism will have had the opportunity to:

1. Understand the basic terminology of Shin Buddhism and original Buddhist philosophy
2. Understand the development of the Shin path from original Buddhist philosophy
3. Understand the development of the Pure Land path of Mahayana Buddhism
4. Understand with Shinran Shonin and his story.
5. Understand the connection between Shakyamuni, Shinran & Yemyo Imamura
6. Understand the differences between traditional Japanese and American Shin Buddhism

Class Pre-requisites

First Steps of Shin Buddhism and/or ABC's of Buddhism classes preferred. Otherwise, some understanding of basic Buddhist philosophy is helpful.

Textbook

1. The Venerable Master Shinran, Daijo Toyohara, 2004 (\$8.00)
2. Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path: Life of Awakening, Takamaro Shigaraki, 2013 (\$12)

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: Introductions; Important Questions
Class 2: Shinran Shonin story; "The Venerable Master Shinran"
Class 3: Early Buddhism: Sakyamuni, Buddhist philosophy, and various Paths
Class 4: The Pure Land Path development; orthodox and "American" Shin Buddhism
Class 5: Shin fundamentals: Amida Buddha, Shinjin, Tariki, Vows, Nembutsu
Class 6: Shin Buddhism in America and the West.

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