

First Steps on the Shin Buddhist Path

Aiea: Saturday mornings, 7 classes, 10-11am: April 7,14,21,28 May 5,12,19

Aiea Hongwanji Mission: 99-186 Puakala Street, Aiea, HI

Instructors: Rev. Kosho Yagi and Dexter Mar

Puna: Saturday mornings, 4 classes: May 26 (2-430pm), June 2,9,16 (10am-1230pm)

Puna Hongwanji Mission: 16-492 Old Volcano Road, Keeau, HI

Instructors: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka and Dexter Mar

Course Objective

The goal is to help newcomers to Jodo Shinshu (Shin) Buddhism gain a basic understanding the terminology, concepts and rituals 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. Be familiar with the basic terminology of Shin and General Buddhism
2. Be familiar with the connection between Shin and General Buddhism
3. Be familiar with Shinran Shonin and his story.
4. Be familiar with the connection between Shinran, Shakyamuni & Amida
5. Be familiar with the reason for and meaning of the service rituals
6. Be familiar with the history and impact of Shin Buddhism in Hawaii

Class Pre-requisites

None. Bring your questions

Textbook

1. Jodo Shinshu: A Guide, Hongwanji International Center, 2006 (Provided by BSC)
2. The Venerable Master Shinran, Daijo Toyohara, 2004 (\$8.00)

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

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| Class 1: | Introductions; Important Questions |
| Class 2: | "The Venerable Master Shinran"; Shinran Shonin story |
| Class 3: | Gautama/Shakyamuni Buddha, Four Noble Truths |
| Class 4: | Four Noble Truths, Three Poisons, Eightfold Path |
| Class 5: | Rituals & Traditions: Gassho, Oshoko, Nenju, Chanting, Altars |
| Class 6: | Shinran's lineage, Amida Buddha, Nembutsu, Primal Vow, Pure Land |
| Class 7: | Three Treasures: importance of Buddha, Dharma, Sangha |

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