

International Buddhist College

Course Outline

First Semester (July – November, 2011), 2011/1012 Academic Year

Subject	CB403 - School of Chinese Buddhism II (3 credits)
Instructor	Dr. Fa Qing
Class Hour	Monday: 1:30 pm-4:30 pm
Classroom	
Office Hour	By Appointment
Email	faqing@ibc.ac.th
Web page	http://ibc.ac.th/faqing/BA/tiantai

1. Course Description

This study is designed to enable the students to gain a general knowledge of the fundamental teachings of the T'ien T'ai School of China and the Tendai School of Japan. It will make a historical survey of the developments within the school and the influence it exerted on the subsequent schools of Buddhist thought, both in China and Japan.

2. Required Textbook:

Hurvitz, Leon. *Chih-i (538-597): An Introduction to the Life and Ideas of a Chinese Monk*. Melanges Chinoises et Bouddhiques 12 (1962): 1-372.

Neal Donner and Daniel B. Stevenson's *The Great Calming and Contemplation*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1993.

Recommend Reference

Swanson, P. *The Philosophy of T'ien-t'ai*. Berkeley: Asian Humanities Press, 1989.

Wright, A. *Studies in Chinese Buddhism*, ed. R. Somers. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.

Zürcher, E. *The Buddhist Conquest of China*. Leiden: Brill, 2 vols.

Lusthaus, Dan. *Buddhist philosophy, Chinese*. In E. Craig (Ed.), *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. London: Routledge. Retrieved December 11, 2006, from

<http://www.rep.routledge.com/article/G002>

<http://www.tiantai.net/>

3. Course Requirements

Students require to read the assigned textbooks before attending the class. As part of the course requirements, students will learn to write a short research paper based upon thorough investigation and documentation. A topic of interest that is related to the subject matter of the course will be selected in consultation with the instructor. Because the outcome of the paper will be presented orally to the class, the students will learn how to prepare a summary for this purpose.

The student should consult a reference book on how to compose a research paper before attempting to write the paper. The MLA Style Sheet is highly recommended. See <http://ibc.ac.th/faqing/essayguide>

The required short research paper should be on a topic related to the contents of the course (i.e., Tian Tai Buddhism in China or Japan). It should have a clear introduction in which the purpose and scope of the paper is stated. Proper documentation of sources, both quoted and used for reference, should be given in the footnotes and bibliography.

Plagiarism is a serious matter and will automatically result in an F for the short paper. It should be noted that a series of quotations does not comprise a research paper. The purpose of the research paper is to investigate a topic and report the result of the investigation in one's own words. It should be clear in pointing out in the notes which parts of the composition are a paraphrase of the sources and which parts constitute the student's own contribution. This distinction between use of sources and the student's own contribution should be transparent.

Through their oral presentation and subsequent questions, the students will have an opportunity to share their findings with the rest of the class. Because the content of the course is Tian Tai Buddhism, this course will offer the students an opportunity to participate in the investigation of not only the Mahayana traditional way of thinking, but also the way that the Chinese and Japanese integrated, assimilated, and transformed the Indian Buddhist ideas to their ways of thinking, while mutually encountering global and international influences.

4. Allocation of Marks:

1. Class participation: 5%
2. Short Research Paper: 15%
3. Oral Presentation: 10%
4. Mid-term exam: 20%
5. Final written exam: 50%

5. Course Plan:

In this course, we shall focus on Tian Tai tradition as it developed within the historical cultural context of China and Japan. Although the course will be lecture oriented, the students are encouraged to ask questions at any time. The course will be taught according the following topics, each session one topic:

1. The basic thought and practice of the first patriarch, Hui-wen of Tian Tai School.
2. The main doctrinal thought of the Saddharmapuṇḍarīka Sūtra.
3. The Mahāparinirvāṇa Sūtra and its relationship with Zhiyi.
4. Pan Jiao (Dividing the Doctrine) in Tian Tai and its significance.
5. "Rounded and Sudden" contemplation.
6. Zhiyi's concept of "One thought contents the three thousand worlds."
7. Zhiyi's interpretation of the Mūlamadhyamakakārikā's two truths.
8. Midterm Exam
9. The function of the ritual practice in Tian Tai School.
10. The controversy between "the Mountain masters" (orthodox) and "Off-mountain masters" (heterodox) during the Song Dynasty.
11. The salient features of the Tian Tai School in Song Dynasty.
12. Tendai Buddhism and esoteric Buddhism.
13. Tendai Buddhism have a major impact on Japanese Buddhism.
14. The crucial elements in Tendai Practice and the distinctive features of Nichiren School.
15. Review

6. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will:

1. Gain a general knowledge of the fundamental teachings of the Tian Tai
2. Understand the essential history and major issues of Tian Tai.
3. A better knowledge of Chinese and Japanese Buddhism.