COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course entails an examination of the processes by which the Japanese absorbed and transformed Chinese and
Korean religious ideas, institutions, and practices between roughly 500 and 1200 CE. The goal of this course is to
arrive at a nuanced understanding of the interplay between indigenous and imported elements in the making of
classical Japanese religious culture. Attention to ritual and social contexts and field visits to religious sites and
museum collections will complement close reading of classical primary texts.

COURSE ASSESSMENT  Unexcused absences will result in a reduced or failing final grade in the course.

- Four (4) journal entries – each no fewer than 250 words of clearly-legible, error-free prose, consisting of
  observations, questions, and reflections (not summaries) related to recently-assigned material (40% of course
  grade; letter-graded)
- Two (2) analytical essays – each no fewer than 2000 words of clearly-legible, error-free prose in response to
  questions posed by the instructor (40% of course grade; letter-graded)
- One (1) research presentation – oral in format, demonstrating the ability to complete an independent inquiry
  into some aspect of early Japanese religious culture, chosen in consultation with the instructor (20% of course
  grade; letter-graded)

COURSE MATERIALS  Students are responsible for procuring copies of course materials.

- Ivan Morris, trans. As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams: Recollections of a Woman in Eleventh-Century Japan
  9784770029775
  ISBN 9780691057897

COURSE CALENDAR  The instructor reserves the right to modify this calendar as necessary. (Revised 5/20/09)

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| 1         | We  | June 3 | “The Earliest Records of Japan” (SOCT 3-16)  
            |      |       | “From Forest to Village Life” (AJ 11-32)  | |
| 2         | Th  | June 4 | “Legends Concerning Susa-no-o” (SOJT 23-30)  
            |      |       | “Records of the Customs and Land of Izumo” (RJP 113-116)  
            |      |       | “Tama Belief and Practice in Ancient Japan” (RJP 141-152)  | Journal entry #1 due |
| 3         | Fr  | June 5 | “Prince Shōtoku and His Constitution” (SOJT 40-55)  
            |      |       | “Hagiography and History: The Image of Prince Shōtoku” (RJP 316-333)  
            |      |       | “The Yamato Region: From Asuka to Ikaruga” (AJ 33-60)  | |
| 4         | Sa  | June 6 | “The Lotus Sūtra” and “The Vimalakīrti Sūtra” (55-62)  
            |      |       | “Nara Buddhism” (SOJT 100-121)  
<pre><code>        |      |       | “Empress Shōtoku: Edict on the Great Thanksgiving Festival” (SOJT 341-342)  | Journal entry #2 due |
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| 5         | Su  | June 7 | • “The Founding of the Monastery Gangōji and a List of Its Treasures” (*RJP* 299-315)  
• “Along the Western Side of Nara” and “The Capital City of Nara” (*AJ* 61-104)  
• “En the Ascetic” (*RJP* 343-353) |  |
| 6         | Mo  | June 8 | • “Chinese Thought and Institutions in Early Japan” (*SOJT* 63-75, 84-89)  
• “The Confucian Monarchy of Nara Japan” (*RJP* 293-298) | Essay #1 due |
| 7         | Tu  | June 9 | • “Kūkai and Esoteric Buddhism” (*SOJT* 153-174)  
• “The Founding of Mount Koya and Kukai’s Eternal Meditation” (*RJP* 354-359)  
• “Japan’s First Shingon Ceremony” (*RJP* 153-158)  
• Annen, “Maxims for the Young” (*SOJT* 193-196) |  |
| 8         | We  | June 10 | • Excerpts from *Kokinshū* and *Genji monogatari* (handouts provided by instructor)  
• “The Vocabulary of Japanese Aesthetics I” (*SOJT* 197-204)  
• “In and Around the Heian Capital” (*AJ* 137-160) | Journal entry #3 due |
|           |     |       | **NARA → TŌKYO → HIROSHIMA → HIMEJI → KYŌTO → NARA** |  |
| 9         | Th  | June 18 | • “Genshin: The Essentials of Salvation” (*SOJT* 217-222)  
• “Genshin’s Deathbed Nembutsu Ritual in Pure Land Buddhism” (*RJP* 166-175)  
• “Hōnen: Choosing the Original Vow for the Recitation of the Buddha’s Name” (*SOJT* 222-226)  
• “Women and Japanese Buddhism: Tales of Birth in the Pure Land” (*RJP* 176-184) | Journal entry #4 due |
| 10        | Fr  | June 19 | • *As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams*, 31-110 | Essay #2 due |
|           |     |       | **WEEKEND WITH HOST FAMILY** |  |
| 11        | Mo  | June 22 | PRESENTATION |  |
|           |     |       | **NARA → KYŌTO → CINCINNATI** |  |

Myōken Bosatsu 妙見菩薩, apotropaic Buddhist-Shintō deity popular since Heian 平安 period