



**Hodo
SHIOIRI**

塩入 法道
シオイリ ホウドウ

Buddhism involves the practice of “Zen meditation.” What is the purpose of Zen meditation? What can be gained through it? Is “enlightenment” the obvious answer? No, it is not. Zen meditation is performed for the sake of Zen meditation. We live so that we can live good lives. In modern society, results are constantly emphasized. However, the question of what we will think and what we will do at this point in time is also important. In the course of taking a step back from a results-oriented and purpose-oriented approach and continuing to take a good look at and reflect on ourselves at all times, wisdom will surely start to shine through. I believe that is what entails the discipline of Buddhism.

At the temple in Shinshu where I serve as a monk (Shinano Kokubun-ji Temple), I rented some land to grow lotus flowers on. July to August is when they are at their most attractive. Please venture outside when you have an opportunity.

Specialization

Tendai sect studies, Lotus Sutra thought

Brief explanation regarding specialization

My research is on Chinese Buddhism with a particular focus on the thinking of Zhiyi of the Tiantai school (Tendai in Japanese). I especially ponder the nature of Zhiyi’s outlook on mankind, his faith in the Goddess of Mercy Kan’ non, and the mental connection between Buddha and Bodhisattvas and us a people. I also take an interest in and study the actual Lotus Sutra serving as the primal scripture of the Tiantai school as well as Shinbutsu-Shugo (a syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism) thought and the culture of the Lotus Sutra in Japan.



**Kojun
HAYASHIDA**

林田 康順
ハヤシダ コウジュン

Greetings to you all. “Buddhism is old hat!” “A monk is a lucrative profession!” “What has Grandpa been doing since he died?” “Do we turn into garbage when we die?” “There’s no way that Amitabha exists!” “There’s no such place as the Jodo (Pure Land)!” Have you ever had the experience of hearing or pondering such comments? When you did, what did you do? Everyone has such things on their mind, and the answers to them may not be so easily discovered. Yet, if you do not seek out those answers, you will never find them. Let’s tackle those and many more questions together in earnest!

Specialization

Honen’s Jodo Buddhism, Jodo sect studies

Brief explanation regarding specialization

In my studies, I address the questions of how the teachings of Priest Honen, founder of the Jodo sect of Buddhism, were established, as well as what the significance of those teachings are; what we, as the recipients of Priest Honen’s teachings, should be mindful of; and how we should proceed to live our lives.



**Nobuo
ŌTSUKA**

大塚 伸夫
オオツカ ノブオ

Show initiative in whatever you do! The four years that you will spend here as students will fly by. I am eager for you to show initiative as you tackle “learning.” There are very few things that you can absorb with a passive approach. Opportunities to “learn” will open up where you personally seek them. I look forward to your endeavors!

Specialization

Early Indian esoteric Buddhism, esoteric Shingon Buddhism

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I research the manner of formation of esoteric Buddhism that was shaped in India, particularly the history of that formation in early times. Simultaneously, I also study the system of thought of esoteric Shingon Buddhism under the Shingon sect.



**Ryuko
KATSUNO**

勝野 隆広
カツノ リュウコウ

In your university studies, eventually, you will need to identify questions and issues in areas that interest you and proceed to approach them. At the same time, I’ m sure that you will find arriving at those questions and issues to be no easy task. Let’ s work through the complications and hardship to arrive at that point together.

Specialization

Tendai doctrine (The Bodhisattva vow)

Brief explanation regarding specialization

The Bodhisattva vow as a shared vow among layperson and devout Buddhists has been handed down over time by various teachers to the latter group. Simultaneously, on Mt. Hiei, it was independently expanded as a vow of layperson Buddhists. Through the Bodhisattva vow and its various aspects as shown here, I seek to clarify the significance of Buddhism and the nature in which it is accepted.



**Nobuo
SONE**

曾根 宣雄
ソネ ノブオ

I am grateful that fate has brought us together through your enrollment in Taisho University. Please progress without losing sight of what it is that you need to do. My hope is that you will not allow your student life to become one that is rife with excuses. Also, the teachings of Shakyamuni and the founders of Jodo Buddhism contain important values and viewpoints that modern society is in the progress of forgetting. Study those areas as sustenance for your life.

Specialization

Buddhakaya theory under Joso Buddhism, Honen' s Jodo Buddhism

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I research Buddhakaya theory under Joso Buddhism and the doctrine of Honen' s Jodo Buddhism. I especially make observations centered on the question of how the concepts of Amitabha and Sukhāvātī are perceived and preached by the Joso sect. My studies also cover social practice based on the doctrine of Honen' s Jodo Buddhism with a particular focus on terminal care.



**Noriyuki
HORIUCHI**

堀内 規之
ホリウチ ノリュキ

There is a considerable difference between high school and college. In college, the need for you to think about things on your own will extend to the classes that you decide to take. You will have freedom, but that freedom will come with responsibility. I implore you to fully savor that freedom and maintain a sense of curiosity as you go about your student life. The things that you gain through that curiosity will be a treasure that lasts for the rest of your life.

Specialization

History of the doctrine of esoteric Shingon Buddhism

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I study Japanese esoteric Buddhism with a particular focus on esoteric Shingon Buddhism, which was brought to Japan by the Japanese monk Kukai. In particular, I address questions such as how esoteric Shingon Buddhism following Kukai expanded and developed using Saisen of the Ninna-ji Temple, a Shingon sect priest who was active during the period of cloistered rule, as my point of observation.



Ryugen
TANEMURA

種村 隆元
タネムラ リュウゲン

Your university school years may be the time in your life when you can study more than any other. That being said, I believe that your studies during that time will go on to become the blood and flesh of your life to come. I hope that you take a hungry approach to whatever you learn without feeling compelled to categorize things based on whether or not they will be of benefit to you.

Specialization

Indian esoteric Buddhism

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I research the doctrine of esoteric Buddhism in India as well its practice and rituals based principally on primary documents such as transcriptions written in Sanskrit. I also perform comparative research between the likes of Shivaism, which has a deep relationship with esoteric Buddhism, and “the Tantras of Hinduism.”



Chijun
KANDATSU

神達 知純
カンダツ チジュン

Not everything that you learn at college will be of use to you in the future. However, broadening and deepening your interests during your years as a college student will surely be a lifelong treasure. Take your time going through that process.

Specialization

Chinese Tiantai doctrine, Lotus Sutra thought and culture

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I research Chinese Buddhism and the Tiantai (Tendai in Japanese) doctrine with a particular focus on the doctrine of Zhiyi, founder of the Tiantai school. I also have an interest in the role of Buddhism in modern society.



**Shujo
KIMURA**

木村 周誠
キムラ シュウジョウ

This time will never be yours to spend again. Use it while treasuring the encounters (connections with others) that you have in the course of your university life so that the people whom you encounter become your friends and teachers for life.

Specialization

Chinese Buddhist thought

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I predominantly research the thinking of Zhiyi of the Tiantai school (Tendai in Japanese) of Buddhism. My objective is to get to the heart of the real image of that thinking, which has been interpreted in various ways over the course of the long history of the Tiantai school.



**Takudo
ISHIKAWA**

石川 琢道
イシカワ タクドウ

In the world, there are many people who have a fondness for Buddhism as well as many who have studied it. What is the difference between the two? One thing that separates them is whether or not they have read and studied the original texts, such as sutras and textbooks containing their interpretations and explanations. Following your enrollment in Taisho University's Department of Buddhist Studies, which is backed by great tradition, my hope is that you will pursue your studies while familiarizing yourself with those original Buddhist texts as much as possible. This university offers numerous courses for that purpose. Moreover, I will spare no effort in assisting you with that endeavor.

Specialization

History of Chinese Jodo Buddhism thought

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I predominantly research Jodo Buddhism thought by Tanluan, a Chinese Jodo Buddhist monk. Tanluan is venerated by the various sects of Jodo Buddhism in Japan as its founder. Well aspects of Tanluan as that founder are also important, I have an interest in and am pursuing research on how he was positioned in the history of Chinese Buddhist thought as well as what the nature of his thinking was as a Chinese monk.



**Yoshiyasu
YONEZAWA**

米澤 嘉康
ヨネザワ ヨシヤス

Writings on Buddhism contains a large number of kanji Chinese characters. The general image of these writings is that they tend to be written vertically. However, in the culture of India, where Buddhism has its roots, as well as in countries in Southeast Asia that are famous for being Buddhist, those writings are horizontal. While bearing that culture in mind, let us study the deep thinking that lies behind it together.

Specialization

Indian Buddhism (Madhyamaka, "Vinaya Sutra," etc.)

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I mainly research transcriptions in Sanskrit written in Tibetan dbu med script. In addition to deciphering texts recorded in those transcriptions, such as the "Vinaya Sutra" and the "Lakshana Tika," I also make observations on why such special transcriptions were left behind as well as on their social context.



**Daiju
SASAKI**

佐々木 大樹
ササキ ダイジュ

With the advent of the Internet and smartphones, we live in convenient times. At the same time, no matter how much society changes, the skills at its foundation, namely reading, writing, speaking and thinking, will remain very much non-digital. In your four years at Taisho University, I hope that you will tackle various challenges head-on and endeavor to steadily build your own foundation.

Specialization

Esoteric Buddhism studies

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I specialize in the research of early esoteric Buddhism, which falls under esoteric Buddhism prior to the "Mahavairocana Sutra" and the "Vajrasekhara Sutra." Esoteric Buddhism was established after Shingon, mudra and Abhisheka rites were incorporated into Buddhism starting around the 4th century based on the influence of Hinduism. I delve into the beginnings of esoteric Buddhism mainly through research on literature and iconographic materials with the intention of elucidating the background of the establishment of esoteric Shingon Buddhism.



**Takako
ABE**

阿部 貴子
アベ タカコ

At Taisho University, the distance between you and your friends, teachers and laboratories is very close. I, too, have the experience spending rich time here surrounded by one-of-a-kind friends, teachers who love to engage in discussion, and Buddhist literature that is easy to get absorbed in. Discover and become engrossed in something that fascinates you at Taisho University.

Specialization

Indian Buddhism

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I study yoga as part of the India-based Yogachara. Through careful reading of the "Yogacarabhumi-Sastra" and comparisons with other literature, I make observations on what kind of practices yoga ascetics from India engage in and what kind of doctrine those practices brought forth. Presently, I am also interested in the connection that those elements have with ascetic practices in literature on esoteric Buddhism.



**Gyodai
KIUCHI**

木内 堯大
キウチ ギョウダイ

In conducting classes on Buddhist statues, one thing that I have realized is that it is impossible to fully convey the charm of actual Buddhist statues through showing photos of them in class. As the saying goes, "Seeing is believing." Whatever you lay your eyes on or experience, it is essential to do so using your own eyes. While studying at your desk is also important, it is ideal for you to embark on journeys to give yourselves varied, broader experiences, be they in Japan or overseas. During summer break, this university conducts a course on Buddhism training at Mt. Hiei. I highly recommend this course for the completely unique experience that it offers.

Specialization

Tendai Buddhism studies, rituals and culture under the Tiantai sect

Brief explanation regarding specialization

Since graduate school, I have researched systems of thought under the early Japanese Tendai sect with a particular focus on the controversy between Saicho, founder of the Tendai school, and Tokuitsu of the Hosso sect, who was active in Aizu. Recently, I have been engaging in the study of the question of how thinking and tradition under the early Japanese Tendai sect impacted rituals, culture and so forth in Japan's medieval times.



**Hiromi
NOMURAJIMA**

野村島 弘美

ノムラジマ ヒロミ

If you are Japanese and overseas, there are a number of situations where your existence and identity as a Japanese individual might be called into question. Learning about the history and religion of Japan and outfitting yourself with “English as part of your ability to communicate” will surely make your life to come full of even greater possibilities. By continuing to study English while bearing what you want to accomplish in the language in mind rather than settling for simply speaking it as your final goal, your world is bound to expand.

Specialization

Paintings

Brief explanation regarding specialization

I research painted works created with the use of oil and tempera, predominantly those between the medieval and baroque eras, and produce works of my own. I endeavor to express a “spiritual world through visual art” with the depictions of the people, animals and plants that serve as the motifs of my works.