

Buddhism in a Christian Land

February 2, 9, 16, 23 – Sundays – 12:30-2 pm

Hongwanji Betsuin Lounge

Chaplain Sherman Thompson

Course Objective

Since American society recognizes Christianity as its primary religious affiliation, this course addresses how Buddhism fits into a Christian culture. Explore Buddhist teachings with a Christian perspective with Chaplain/ Reverend/Kahu/Sensei Sherman Thompson, who was raised in a Shin Buddhist family and ordained as a United Church of Christ minister and currently serves as a Chaplain at Kamehameha Schools. Compare and contrast the spiritual journeys when living in a multi-cultural, multi-religion society.

Course Learning Opportunities

By the end of the course we will have had the opportunity to:

- Develop an understanding and sense of appreciation for the relationship between Buddhism and Christianity
- Recognize different approaches, definitions and components in the study of Christianity
- Examine the basic beliefs and practices of Christianity.
- Comprehend the historical context for and development of Christianity.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for the course. Suggested readings to further understanding will be offered.

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

February 2	Introduction: What’s a Christian? Everything you wanted to know about Christianity but were afraid to ask.
February 9	Who was Jesus Christ? Who was the historical Jesus and how did Christianity develop and spread.
February 16	Scriptures: What do Christians Believe? What is the Bible? What are the sources of the Christian faiths? How do Christian beliefs affect Christian behavior?
February 23	Christian Churches: What are the various denominations and how do they differ?

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