

Master of Arts: Pastoral Care and Counseling: Buddhist Track Courses Spring 2013

Attendance at the NYZCCC Sesshin Silent Zen Retreat, January 17-20, is required. Register for this at www.zencare.org

ZEN2034: Foundations in Buddhist Contemplative Care 2: 4 Cr.

Prof. Rev. Koshin Paley Ellison, MFA, LMSW, D.Min Candidate

Dates: **2013:** January 5; February 2; March 1 and 2; April 6; May 4; May 31 & June 1

Place: NYZCCC 588 Broadway, Suite 1108, New York, NY 10003

This 10-month course covers a wide array of care-giving topics including introduction to the function of a contemplative care practitioner within health care and other social service settings. Using lecture, group work, and written report formats, participants will learn cultural competency, spiritual assessment, delivery of relationship centered care, applied counseling skills in the areas of grief, loss and dying, and the importance of integrative and relational collaboration in health care settings. *This course must be first applied to through the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care.*

ZEN2074: Zen Buddhist Ethics/Medical Ethics: History and Clinical Practice; 4 Cr.

Prof. Rev. Koshin Paley Ellison, MFA, LMSW, ACPE, D.Min Candidate

Dates/Times: Saturdays 9:00 am-5:00 pm: January 26; February 23; March 16; April 27; and May 11

Place: NYZCCC Karpas Health Center, 311 First Avenue @18th St.

Buddhist ethics emerged as an academic discipline in 1992, with the publication of Damien Keown's book *The Nature of Buddhist Ethics*. His subsequent co-founding of the *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* in 1994 further solidified the birth of a new field in the discipline of Buddhist studies. Prior to Keown's book, only a handful of books and articles existed that attempted to delve into the questions of a specifically Buddhist ethic from a western philosophical perspective. In the past twenty years, Buddhists have entered the medical system in formal ways as chaplains on the interdisciplinary and Medical Ethics teams. This course will be an examination of Buddhist ethics and how it is alive in our lives and within the clinical application within the field of medical ethics. Guest medical ethicists will join the course to bring the theories into real world practice.

ZEN2054: Platform Sutra; 4 Cr.

Prof. Roshi Enkyo O'Hara, PhD

Dates/Times: January 11-12; February 15-16; March 8-9; and April 12-13

Fridays from 5:30 to 8:00 pm; Saturdays from 9:30 to 5:00 pm

Place: NYZCCC Karpas Health Center, 311 First Avenue @18th St.

The Platform Sutra is considered the primary formative scripture of Zen Buddhism. Even today, this sutra serves as the cornerstone of the many branches of Zen Buddhism in the east and west. Core concepts such as 'formless precepts' and 'lay ordination' and 'sudden illumination' are introduced in this sutra. Most importantly, the course will provide students with a historical and theoretical foundation with which to discern differing moral codes, contemplative techniques, and ordination styles. The course will investigate these and other themes arising from this seminal text. Class presentations, monthly reflections and a final (3000-5000 word) paper will be required. The evaluation will be based equally on these three elements.

While the emphasis will be on the text itself, students will be encouraged to deepen their understanding with the varied supplemental readings.

ZEN2064: Comparative Models of Healing and Salvation from Around the Globe; 4 Cr.

Prof. Morgan Stebbins, MDiv, LMSW, LP, D.Min Candidate

Dates/Times: Jan. 31 - May 9:

Thursdays 6:30 to 8:30 pm; Fridays 5:30 – 8 pm; Saturdays 9:30am – 5 pm

Place: NYZCCC @Karpas Health Center, 311 First Avenue @ 18th St.

This course will dive into a number of classic (and not so classic) texts, rituals, and experiences of meaning and transformation. We will range widely across the landscape of theoretical approaches, from the theological stance embedded in tradition to a literary close reading to a psychologically grounded essentialism. This latter is based on Jung's view of religion as a symbolic manifestation of living psyche. Our goal will be twofold. First, and quite accessible, is the development of a wider cultural understanding of different religious traditions and the cultivation of deeper methods of textual interpretation. Second and more specifically, we will attempt to see each of these meaningful or even soteriological narratives as completely true descriptions of sub-structures of the human psyche. That is, they can be seen as in some way relevant for everyone, if understood at a particular level of resonance. In this way, our ability to connect in a relevant way with a broad range of people is greatly enhanced. Of course this very perspective will be challenged as well by its natural opposite: that each tradition can only be understood from within its own context of ritual and belief.

SUMMER 2013

ZEN204Z: Early Buddhist Teachings on Illness, Dying and Care-giving & the Vimalakirti Sutra; 10 Cr.

Professors: Andrew Olendski, PhD, Peter Gregory, PhD, Rev. Koshin Paley Ellison, MFA, LMSW, D.Min Candidate, Rev. Robert Chodo Campbell, HHC

Dates: July 15-26, 2013

Place: Barre Center for Buddhist Studies, Barre, MA

We welcome you to join us for this innovative residential learning community institute. Join us for two weeks of exploration and practice into early Buddhist teachings on illness, care-giving, dying and the Vimalakirti Sutra. It is a unique opportunity to study and practice together.

PART ONE: EARLY BUDDHIST TEACHINGS The texts of the Pali Canon, containing the teachings of the historical Buddha and the first generation of his followers, offer detailed instructions on how to face the universal issues of illness, aging and death with both courage and dignity. Of particular value to caregivers who work in the context of contemplative practice, this course integrates the close reading of primary texts (Pali texts in English translation), an investigation of their meaning in direct meditative experience, and a thorough exploration of how these approaches and techniques can be usefully applied to contemporary caregiving situations.

PART TWO: INTEGRATIVE RETREAT The weekend retreat begins, with an introduction and orientation offered by the meditation teachers. We will integrate the learnings from the first week into our meditation practice, one to one interviews with teachers, and lectures. The retreat opens with the first silent meditation session, and silence is maintained until Sunday after lunch.

PART THREE: The course will use a close reading of the *The Holy Teaching of Vimalakīrti* to reflect on the meaning of the bodhisattva's compassionate vow to liberate all suffering sentient beings. In particular, it will investigate the following questions: What is the nature of sickness? What is its origin? How is it cured? What is the role of the bodhisattva? How can a bodhisattva effectuate his/her compassionate activity in the world if he/she realizes that there are ultimately no beings to be liberated? What is bodhisattva burnout? And what is its remedy?