

Religious Studies

Zen explored in seminar

Zen Buddhism
R 407M

By TRISH WEISMAN
Of the Emerald

Western understanding of Zen Buddhism is fragmented and exaggerated says Hee-Jin Kim, teacher of a new seminar on Zen. To an American with his "highly rationalistic, scientific" mind, Zen represents extremism and irrationality.

"I try to bring students to a more totalistic understanding of Zen," Kim said. His course will examine Zen from both historical and phenomenological standpoints.

In the first part of the term Kim will explore the Indian, Chinese and Japanese historical background of

the religion. Then he will "relate Zen to various aspects of contemporary life."

The thrust of the course, he said, will be "to see Zen from various angles," and to "see the significance of Zen today."

This is Kim's first year at the University. He is originally from Korea, but has studied and taught in this country for two decades. Besides studying Zen academically, he has received guidance from a Zen priest and scholar.

Texts for the course are Dumoulin's *A History of Zen Buddhism*, *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones* by Reys, and two books by Suzuki, *Manual of Zen Buddhism* and *Living by Zen*.

Three papers will be assigned in the course and active participation in discussion is expected. No exams will be given.

Sociology

Interdisciplinary women's course to be offered

Introduction to Women's Studies
SOC 199 (Also in DCE)

During winter term, "Introduction to Women's Studies" (listed as "Special Studies: Sociology of Women" in the supplement to the time schedule) will take an interdisciplinary approach to the study of women's options and roles in society. The class is sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee on Women's Education, and will be team-taught by Ardy Dunn (sociology), Barbara Bates-Schellenbarger (communications), and Olga Broumas (fine arts).

Readings, lectures and discussions will focus on a variety of aspects of women's experience, including: language and communication, psychology/sexuality, women in the arts, cultures and subcultures, economics and occupations. A different aspect will be covered every week, often including special panels or guest

speakers during the Tuesday night sessions.

The discussion groups, which will hopefully be limited to 15 persons each, will serve to integrate material presented in readings and regular class meetings. Throughout the course, an attempt will be made not only to present information about the history and current status of women in society, but to make each person aware of the expanding range of alternative roles (in terms of both occupations and lifestyles) that are becoming available to all women today.

Dina Wills, co-chairer of the Ad Hoc Committee on Women's Education, said she hopes the class will expand into several independent courses with the implementation of a Women's Studies Program at the University. The committee is currently drawing up a proposal for this program, which, if adopted, would join 78 similar programs in the U.S., 10 of which offer bachelor's degrees in the field.



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