

Philosophy of Zen

Spring 2023

Final Exam Essay

Turn in your essay through Laulima. Submit the essay as a Word or pdf document.

The Philosophy of Zen

Write a 7-10 page essay reflecting on the philosophy of Zen. The essay can build on your mid-term essay but should engage some of the readings we have examined in the rest of the course. The essay should explain the difference between the Soto and Rinzai schools of Zen, reflecting on some of the readings from the two most important philosophers in those traditions, Dōgen and Hakuin. The essay should also engage at least one of the texts in contemporary Zen examined in Part IV of the course. What is the Zen view of enlightenment? How might the philosophy of Zen be relevant today in this time of global crisis? Has the philosophy of Zen changed your thinking about the meaning of life in any way? Has the philosophy of Zen left you with questions to ponder?