

## **Crazy Buddhism - wisdom, madness, and modernity in Zen Buddhism**

**Prof Jacob Raz 2025-2026**

### syllabus

The course will deal with the following topics:

1. The beginning of Buddhism - the life of the Buddha and his observation of human consciousness.
2. Emptiness, form and compassion and everything in between - the revolution of Mahayana Buddhism.
3. What cannot be talked about - Chinese Daoism.
4. "There is no meaning to the dharma" - the growth of the Chinese Chan.
5. Who binds you? - The beginning of the Chinese Chan.
6. If you meet the Buddha on the way, kill him - the late Chan teachers.
7. Study dharma, study yourself and forget - the beginning of the Japanese Zen.
8. Sutras? A pile of rubbish - crazy zen teachers.
9. Show me your original face - the world of the koan riddle.
10. Rust, scratched, cracked? Zen and beauty.
11. Flying hairlines - form and breaking form in art.
12. Zen with everything? The challenge of the contemporary zen in the West.

Assignments: During the course, students will be required to submit 4 out of 5 optional assignments.

Composition of the final grade: 20% assignments, 80% Final paper, submission of assignments is mandatory to receive a final grade.

Teaching assistant: Gil Peri