

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2410A; Late Summer
“Introduction to Buddhism” (21347)

Instructor: Dr. Richard MacPhail
Office: 3A60 Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Thursday 5:00 to 5:55
Class Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 6:05 to 8:55 pm
Class Location: SA 502 (Southam Hall)
Email: richard.macphail@carleton.ca

Email policy: I attempt to respond to emails within 24 hours, except on weekends. Please see “Communicating with the Instructor” below.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course surveys major teachings and social aspects of the Buddhist tradition from earliest historical times to the present day through lectures and audio-visual materials.

As this is a second year course without any prerequisite, some time must be dedicated to what it means to study religion in general before beginning the study of Buddhism.

Please be aware that, like other technical subjects, the study of Indic religions requires the learning and use of a range of technical terms since English language in common use does not adequately represent the meanings expressed in the original languages. Non-English terms used in this course are primarily Sanskrit terms in Roman transliteration. Some Pali, Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan language terms may also be used. **Please consider this linguistic requirement when registering in this course, should you object to it.**

Catalogue Description: “Basic beliefs and practices of the Buddhist tradition and a brief survey of its development and transformations in India, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia, Tibet, China and Japan. Lecture three hours a week.”

PRECLUSIONS: Precludes additional credit for RELI 1006 and RELI 2106.

TEACHING AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed so that you will:

- 1) develop an understanding of the **methods and perspectives** proper to the academic study of religion;
- 2) develop an **informed appreciation** for the beliefs, values and practices of Buddhists;

- 3) improve your ability to **analyze and interpret** culturally unfamiliar materials;
- 4) become more aware of your own **cultural and personal assumptions, beliefs, and biases**;
- 5) develop skills to **think critically** about your own and others' world-views;
- 6) develop an appreciation for writing as a way both to clarify for yourself the content of the course and to **communicate your understanding to others**.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR:

Carleton policy requires faculty to communicate with students through the **Carleton email system**. I will not respond to students' emails sent through other means such as gmail, hotmail, etc. As a courtesy, I may respond (once) to such non-Carleton emails directing you to find my substantive response at your Carleton account. Expect a 24-hour turn-around on emails; I will respond as soon as possible.

I am not available by telephone or voice mail. Please take advantage of my office hour, as the time posted above is the only time when I have regular access to office facilities at the university.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Your focus during our weekly three hours together should be on what is happening in the session. You may use laptop/tablet computers for recording your notes. However, no audio or video recording may be done in class without a Letter of Accommodation from the Paul Menton Centre specifying such a need. All electronic devices which may disturb me or other students **must** be silent.

The cuLearn course web page and all its resources may be accessed through your computer, tablet or smart phone.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Charles Prebish and Damien Keown. *Buddhism—The eBook*, Fourth Edition. ISBN: 978-0-9801633-6-0.

It is available for purchase online as a PDF file for US\$25.75 at:

<http://worldreligionsebooks.com/eBooks/buddhism/>

There are two main components:

- ***Buddhism-The eBook, Fourth Edition***. A text book with extensive links to the Internet
- **Buddhism Online**. This website, linked with the ebook, provides a range of additional resources.

A current version of a PDF reader is required, such as Adobe Acrobat Reader.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You must complete all four graded components to receive credit for the course. Do not plan to travel on examination dates.

There are thirteen (13) sessions in this course. Signing an attendance sheet during each session is required. Absence from more than three (3) sessions without substantiating documentation is unacceptable.

Discussion Question Forums (20%): See the Lecture and Assignment Schedule below for due dates.

Five brief written assignments (100-150 words—4% each), submitted through forums in cuLearn, meant to explore general themes in religion. These are designed to allow you to both explore and express your ideas freely and to assess your communication skills by engaging in asynchronous conversations with other students through threaded discussions.

Midterm Test (20%): July 25 - Tuesday, at 6:05 pm.

In-class, 60 minutes. Essay and Scantron (multiple choice and true/false) covering material up to, and including “Topic 12 - Buddhist *Tantra*. ” It will assess your familiarity with both terminology and substantive material.

Research Essay (30%): Due August 3 - Thursday

Approximately 2000 words, submitted electronically through cuLearn. Paper copies are not required. The Chicago style guide is required in the Religion program, and instructions for its proper use will be provided.

In order for me to return your assignment to you with my comments, you must submit your Research Essay electronically through cuLearn in an **editable format**, such as .doc or .docx. Essays in non-editable formats such as .pdf will **NOT** be accepted.

Comprehensive instructions and a sample essay modeling correct, and required, formatting and a list of suggested topics will be provided through cuLearn. If you have some other topic you would like to write on, contact the instructor first for approval.

I will be glad to comment on your written research abstract or outline, if you send it me by email attachment by July 27, one week before the due date.

Late Research Essay Assignments will be accepted, but your grade will be reduced by one grade level for each day late (for example, A- to B+).

***** Take note that I do not hesitate to implement the University's regulations on Plagiarism. *****

For clarification of what constitutes plagiarism, please see:

<http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

Final Exam (30%): Scheduled by Scheduling and Exam Services.

Three hours, Essay and Scantron (multiple choice and true/false), covering the topics since the Midterm, plus “Topic 2 - Religion as an Academic Discipline” from the first session.

Criteria for writing and standards for grading of assignments will be provided through cuLearn. Your grade will be adjusted downward for failure to comply with the prescribed Chicago style, and for deficiencies in spelling, and grammar. Midterm and Final Exams will be based on the textbook, lectures, and in-class discussions.

LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Each reading and media segment is intended to prepare you for the lecture and should be read, heard or viewed in advance of it. For this reason, I have posted these resources to the *previous session* below, and on cuLearn.

Please prepare two or three questions from each reading for discussion in class. Engagement with other students and the instructor through questions is an important part of your learning and is strongly encouraged.

Be sure to check cuLearn regularly for updates to assignments and links to resources for subsequent sessions.

This schedule may vary according to class pace or other circumstances.

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Session 1 - Tuesday, July 4

Welcome. Outline of the Course. What to expect.

Topic 1 - Overview of Buddhism

Review of the Course Outline.

Topic 2 - Religion as a field of study.

Reading for Next Class:

Buddhism: The eBook (BTE) - Ch 1: Background to Buddhism (pp. 2-24).

BTE - Ch 2: The *Buddha* (pp. 25-41).

BTE - Ch 3: The *Dharma* (pp. 42-59).

BTE - Ch 4: The Buddhist *Samgha* (pp. 60-77).

Discussion Question 1(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Thursday, July 6.

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Session 2 - Thursday, July 6

Discussion Question 1(a) due by noon.

Topic 3 - Cultural background.

Topic 4 - Life of the Buddha.

Reading for Next Class:

BTE - Ch 5: Buddhism in India (pp. 79-99).

BTE - Ch 6: *Mahāyāna* (pp. 100-119).

Selections from the *Dhammapāda*, posted on cuLearn.

Discussion Question 1(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Tuesday, July 11.

Discussion Question 2(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Thursday, July 13.

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Session 3 - Tuesday, July 11

Discussion Question 1(b) due by noon.

Topic 5 - History and Sects - *Theravāda*, *Mahāyāna*.

Topic 6 - Schools - *Trikāya*, *Mādyamika*, *Yogacāra*, *Vajrayāna*.

Readings for Next Class:

BTE - Ch 7: Meditation (pp. 120-142).

BTE - Ch 8: Buddhism in South-east Asia (pp. 143-162).

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Session 4 - Thursday, July 13

Discussion Question 2(a) due by noon.

Topic 7 - Buddhist Contemplative Traditions and Rituals.

Topic 8 - *Theravāda* in South-east Asia.

Readings for Next Class:

~30 pages on Buddhist Doctrines, posted on cuLearn

Discussion Question 2(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Tuesday, July 18.

Discussion Question 3(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Thursday, July 20.

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Session 5 - Tuesday, July 18

Discussion Question 2(b) due by noon.

Topic 9 - Buddhist Doctrines, Part 1.

Topic 10 - Buddhist Doctrines, Part 2.

Readings for Next Class:

Review *BTE* - Ch 5: Buddhism in India (pp. 86-91)

BTE - Ch 10: Buddhism in Tibet, section on *Tantra* and Tantric texts (pp. 196-198).

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Session 6 - Thursday, July 20

Discussion Question 3(a) due by noon.

Review for Midterm Exam, July 25, based on your questions.

Topic 11 - Buddhist Art and Architecture.

Topic 12 - Buddhist *Tantra*.

Readings for Next Class:

Review *BTE* - Ch 4: The Buddhist *Sangha*

"The *Viṇaya*" (pp. 63-67).

"The laity" (pp. 67-68).

"Monastic life", "Monastic vocations" (Text box) (pp. 70-72).

"Buddhist nuns" (pp. 73-76).

Review *BTE* - Ch 8: Buddhism in South-east Asia

"General characteristics of Buddhism in the region" (pp. 145-147).

BTE - Ch 9: Buddhism in East Asia

"Chinese Buddhist religious life" and Text box (p. 171).

"Recent developments in Japanese Buddhism" (Text box) (p.182)

Additional resources to be assigned.

Discussion Question 3(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Thursday, July 27.

Discussion Question 4(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Tuesday, August 1.

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Session 7 - Tuesday, July 25

Midterm Test Today at 6:05 pm Scantron, 60 Minutes (20%).

Topic 13 - Buddhist Traditions and Social Practices; Monastic Practices.

Readings for Next Class:

BTE - Ch 9: Buddhism in East Asia (pp. 162-171).

Additional resources to be assigned.

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Session 8 - Thursday, July 27

Discussion Question 3(b) due by noon.

Topic 14 - Buddhism in China.

Topic 15 - Buddhism in China, continued.

Readings for Next Class:

BTE - Ch 9: Buddhism in East Asia (pp. 175-185).

Additional resources to be assigned.

Discussion Question 4(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Tuesday, August 8.

Discussion Question 5(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Thursday, August 10.

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Session 9 - Tuesday, August 1

Discussion Question 4(a) due by noon.

Reminder: Research Essay Due August 3 at Noon

Discussion of issues on the Midterm, or any other matter.

Topic 16 - Buddhism in Japan—An Alien Religion in Historical Context.

Topic 17 - Buddhism in Japan—Development and Variety.

Readings for Next Class:

BTE - Ch 10: Buddhism in Tibet (pp. 186-202).

Additional resources to be assigned.

Discussion Question 5(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Tuesday, July 25.

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Session 10 - Thursday, August 3

Topic 18 - Buddhism in Tibet.

Topic 19 - Diasporic Tibetan Buddhism.

Research Essay Due Today at Noon (30%)

Readings for Next Class:

BTE - Ch 11: Buddhism in the Western World (pp. 204-216).

BTE - Ch 12: Socially Engaged Buddhism (pp. 217-234).

BTE - Ch 13: Ethics (pp. 235-257).

Discussion Question 5(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Tuesday, August 15.

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Session 11 - Tuesday, August 8

Discussion Question 4(b) due by noon.

Topic 20 - Buddhism in a Globalized Culture.

Topic 21 - Socially Engaged Buddhism.

Readings for Next Class:

BTE - Ch 14: Reflections on the Nature and Study of Buddhism (pp. 258-276).

Additional resources to be assigned.

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Session 12 - Thursday, August 10

Discussion Question 5(a) due by noon.

Topic 22 - Past, Present and Future of Buddhist Studies.

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Session 13 - Tuesday, August 15

Discussion Question 5(b) due by noon.

Wrap-up and Review.

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NOTES ON EVALUATION:

Again, you must complete all four graded components to receive credit for the course. There are no grade-raising exams or alternative assignments in this course. If you miss an assignment due date unavoidably, you must provide adequate written documentation (e.g. a doctor's note, an obituary) for your incapacity.

Alternative tests will not normally be offered, and a timely resolution must be negotiated with the instructor to meet the criteria of good standing should a student wish to be eligible to write a deferred final exam.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

DATES AND DEADLINES

Last date to withdraw (financial): with a full fee adjustment
Early Summer: May 19, 2017, Full Summer May 19, 2017
Late Summer: July 24, 2017

Last date to withdraw (Academic):
Early Summer: June 13, 2017
Full/Late Summer: August 16, 2017 & any other courses that end this term.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **June 2, 2017** for the Early Summer & **July 24, 2018** for Late and Full Summer. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery. If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral Applications for examination or assignments must be made in writing to the Registrar’s Office no later than **3 working days** of the original final exam or the due date of the take home exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic & Career Development Services 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library