Carleton University  Summer 2012  
College of the Humanities  
Religion Program: RELI 2410A  

**Introduction to Buddhism**  

**Professor:** Christopher Morrison  
**Class Hours:** M W: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Office:** Patterson Hall: 2A35 PA  
**Class Location:** A720 Loeb Building  
**Office Phone:** 613-520-2600 Ext. 2103  
**Primary Email:** Web CT / cdmorris@connect.carleton.ca  
**Office Hours:** W: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  

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**Course Description**  
This course provides students with a detailed introduction to Buddhism. In this course, participants will investigate various thematic and specific aspects concerning the long and complex histories of Buddhism. Through the use of primary and secondary literature, film, and other media, this course will provide a regional overview of the development of Buddhism from ancient India to contemporary North America. While we will try to follow the chronological development of Buddhism since antiquity, the focus of this course is more concerned with addressing key components that have shaped many different culturally specific Buddhist practices and doctrines. Buddhism has demonstrated an uncanny ability to adapt to changing cultures and regions for over 2500 years. Course participants will be exposed to many of the unique philosophical, doctrinal, and practical nuances and distinctions resulting from these cultural adaptations.  

**Core Competencies**  
This course will enable us to: 1) develop skills necessary for close textual readings and analysis of relevant materials 2) develop sensitivities and awareness of cross-cultural issues and begin to think through the philosophical and ethical questions concerning cultural appropriations 3) display adequate understanding of core Buddhist concepts and identify distinctions between various Buddhist practices, doctrines, and histories 4) develop improved writing skills to better articulate the data/questions/issues extracted from course readings and discussions.  

**Required Texts**  
Further readings found on the web: See [http://buddhasutra.com/](http://buddhasutra.com/)
**Suggested Reading** (in order of course relevance)


**Course Requirements and Evaluation**

Quiz #1 (in class) 15%  (May 23)

Quiz #2 (in class) 15%  (June 4)

Reading Response 20%  (June 11)

Discussion Groups/Participation 15%

Final Essay (Take-Home) 35%  (June 27)

***Late Assignments are deducted 5% per day (excluding weekends).***

*There will be no scheduled final exam for this course, it is a Take-Home*
Course Schedule

Week One: Monday, May 7: Course Introductions; the story of the Buddha


Week Two: Monday, May 14: The Development of Early Indian Buddhism


Week Three: Monday, May 21: Statutory Holiday, NO CLASS

Wednesday, May 23: QUIZ 1 (in class); Medieval Indian Buddhism (Readings: Buddhist Scriptures, “The Buddha” pp. 101-220)

Week Four: Monday, May 28: Buddhism in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia

Wednesday, May 30: Chinese Buddhism (Readings: Buddhist Scriptures, ”Monastic Life” pp. 223- 340)

Week Five: Monday, June 4: QUIZ 2 (in class); Japanese Buddhism

Wednesday, June 6: Tibetan Buddhism (Readings: Buddhist Scriptures, “Meditation and Other Rituals” pp. 343-438)

Week Six: Monday, June 11: Reading Response (due in class); Tibetan Buddhism (cont’d); Film (TBA)

Wednesday, June 13: Buddhism in the West (Readings: Buddhist Scriptures, “Enlightenment” pp. 441-547)

Week Seven: Monday, June 18: Buddhism in the West (cont’d); course wrap-up

*****Final Essay/Take-Home Due June 27th (please send/attach your essay via email) *****
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;
- 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.

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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

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 assignments 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 submitted within 5 working days of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)
College of the Humanities 520-2809  300 Paterson
greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809  2A39 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100  2A39 Paterson
Registrar’s Office 520-3500  300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850  302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937  501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6740 Ext. 1125  4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125  4th Floor Library

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
The last date to withdraw from EARLY SUMMER courses is JUNE 19, 2012. The last day to withdraw from FULL SUMMER and LATE SUMMER courses is AUGUST 15, 2012.