

Carleton University FALL 2012

College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2410A

Introduction to Buddhism

Professor: Christopher Morrison

Class Hours: F: 11:35 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Office: Patterson Hall: 2A35 PA

Class Location: Southam Hall 304

Office Phone: 613-520-2600 Ext. 2103

Primary Email: christopher_morrison@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Fridays: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

Lopez, Donald S., Jr., Ed. *Buddhist Scriptures*. New York: Penguin Group, 2004.

Further readings found on the web: See <http://buddhasutra.com/>

Suggested Reading (in order of course relevance)

Robinson, Richard, et. al. *Buddhist Religions: A Historical Introduction*. Toronto: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2005.

Garfield, Jay L. *The Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way: Nāgārjuna's Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Nishitani, Keiji. *Religion and Nothingness*. Trans. Jan Van Bragt. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1982.

Conze, Edward, trans. *The Perfection of Wisdom In Eight Thousand Lines and Its Verse Summary*. San Francisco: City Lights, 1973.

Thurman, Robert A. F., trans. *The Holy Teaching of Vimalakīrti: A Mahāyāna Sutra*. University Park, Pennsylvania: Penn State University Press, 2006.

Lopez, Donald S., Jr. *Prisoners of Shangri-La: Tibetan Buddhism and the West*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

The Lankavatara Sutra: A Zen Text. Trans. Red Pine. Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint Press, 2012.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Quiz #1 (in class)	20%	(Oct. 12)
Quiz #2 (in class)	20%	(Nov. 2)
Reading Response	20%	(Nov. 16)
Discussion Groups/Participation	10%	
Final Essay (Take-Home)	30%	(Dec. 19)

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

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

Course Schedule

Sept. 7: Course Introductions; the story of the Buddha

Sept. 14: The Historical and Early Context of Buddhism (**Readings:** *Buddhist Scriptures*, “Introduction” pp. xi –xlix)

Sept. 21: The Development of Early Indian Buddhism

Sept. 28: The Three Vehicles, The Six Realms of Rebirth (**Readings:** *Buddhist Scriptures*, “The Buddhist Universe” pp. 3-98)

Oct. 5: University Day, NO CLASS

Oct. 12: **QUIZ 1 (in class)**; Medieval Indian Buddhism (**Readings:** *Buddhist Scriptures*, “The Buddha” pp. 101-220)

Oct. 19: Buddhism in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia

Oct. 26: Chinese Buddhism (**Readings:** *Buddhist Scriptures*, “Monastic Life” pp. 223- 340)

Nov. 2: **QUIZ 2 (in class)**; Japanese Buddhism

Nov. 9: Tibetan Buddhism (**Readings:** *Buddhist Scriptures*, “Meditation and Other Rituals” pp. 343-438)

Nov. 16: **Reading Response (due in class)**; Tibetan Buddhism (cont’d); Film (TBA)

Nov. 23: Buddhism in the West (**Readings:** *Buddhist Scriptures*, “Enlightenment” pp. 441-547)

Nov. 30: Buddhism in the West (cont’d); course wrap-up

*******Final Essay/Take-Home Exam is Due Wednesday, December 19 (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;
- 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.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 3, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 10, 2013**.

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 Nov. 9, 2012 for the Fall term and March 8, 2013 for the Winter term. 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 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	300 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 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library