

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2410A
“Introduction to Buddhism” (21367)

Instructor: Dr. Richard MacPhail
Office: 2A35 Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Thursday 5:00 to 5:55 pm
Class Hours: TR 6:05 to 8:55 pm
Class Location: 104 Tory Building
Email: richard.macphail@carleton.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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

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.” (Six hours per week in summer.)

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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

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

It is available as a PDF file for US\$25.75

at: <http://www.jbeonlinebooks.org/eBooks/buddhism/>

Publisher's Blurb: “Extensively revised and updated, *Buddhism—The eBook, Fourth Edition* is a self contained textbook for an introductory course on Buddhism. Designed for undergraduate level study, it provides everything students and teachers could expect from a printed text and more.”

There are two main components:

1. ***Buddhism—The eBook, Fourth Edition***. A text book with extensive links to the Internet
2. **Buddhism Online**. A website dovetailing with the ebook and providing a range of additional resources for students and teachers.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Consistent attendance is expected and required. If attendance diminishes, a mandatory sign-in sheet will be implemented. There are thirteen (13) sessions in this course. Absence from more than three (3) sessions without substantiating documentation is unacceptable. When grading, I prefer to give students the “benefit of any doubt”, which will be erased if you have not attended classes.

Exams and assignments will be based on the textbook, other readings, audio/visual media, and lectures.

Students are to complete all assignments and examinations to receive credit for the course. Do not plan to travel on examination dates.

- 1) **Five Discussion Question Assignments** (100-150 words—4% each, totaling 20%). **Due by Noon on the dates of Sessions 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8.** See the Lecture and Assignment Schedule below for dates.

These exercises are an opportunity for you to reflect on specific issues in religion, and are to be submitted electronically through cuLearn. They are not graded on content, but only on demonstrated writing skills, such as spelling and grammar. This will give you opportunity to express your thoughts on the topics freely, without concern about “right” or “wrong” answers. Feedback on writing skills and corrective action will be provided.

- 2) **Midterm Test, Thursday, July 23, at 6:05 pm.**

In-class; Scantron, multiple choice, true/false; 30 minutes; 15%.

- 3) **Book Review of the course textbook, *Buddhism—The eBook, Fourth Edition*, due Thursday, August 6, at Noon.** (25%).

This is your opportunity to provide a critical reflection on the course textbook. Did it meet your needs as a student? What were its best features? How might it be improved? You will submit your book review electronically through cuLearn in an editable format, such as .doc, .docx, .rtf, .odt, but **not .pdf**. Paper copies will not be required.

- 4) **Final Examination** scheduled by SES (2 hours, 40%). Scantron, multiple choice, true/false (10%), and three interpretive essays worth 10% each. The final exam will be cumulative and may include material from any part of the course.

Criteria for writing and grading of assignments will be provided through cuLearn. Deficiencies in spelling, grammar and presentation will all affect your grade.

Late Book Reviews may 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 Your Information: There are several style guides for writing academic papers. You can learn about Chicago Style, preferred in the Religion program, at this link:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

This schedule may vary according to class comprehension and pace.

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

Be sure to check cuLearn for updates to assignments and links to resources for the following week.

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#### **Session 1 – Thursday, July 2**

- Topic 1      Overview of Buddhism  
Topic 2      Review of the Course Outline.  
Topic 3      Religion as a field of study.

**Discussion Assignment 1 – Due July 7, at Noon.**

**Survey of Student Interest - Due July 7, at Noon.**

**Readings for Next Class:** [Textbook - 57 pages]

- 1) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 1: Background to Buddhism (pp. 2-24).
- 2) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 2: The *Buddha* (pp. 25-41).
- 3) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 3: The *Dharma* (pp. 42-59).

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Session 2 – Tuesday, July 7

- Topic 4 Cultural background.
Topic 5 Life of the Buddha.

Due Today, at Noon – Discussion Assignment 1 and Survey of Student Interest.

Discussion Assignment 2 – Due July 9, at Noon.

Readings for Next Class: [Textbook - 59 pages]

- 1) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 4: *The Buddhist Sangha* (pp. 60-77).
- 2) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 5: *Buddhism in India* (pp. 79-99).
- 3) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 6: *Mahāyāna* (pp. 100-119).

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**Session 3 – Thursday, July 9**

- Topic 6 History and Sects – *Theravada, Mahayana*.
- Topic 7 Schools – *Trikaya, Madyamika, Yogachara, Vajrayana*.

**Due Today, at Noon – Discussion Assignment 2.**

**Discussion Assignment 3 - Due July 14, at Noon.**

**Readings for Next Class:** [Textbook - 42 pages]

- 1) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 7: *Meditation* (pp. 120-142).
- 2) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 8: *Buddhism in South-east Asia* (pp. 143-162).

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Session 4 – Tuesday, July 14

- Topic 8 Buddhist Contemplative Traditions and Rituals.
- Topic 9 Theravada in South-east Asia.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 3.

(No new Discussion Assignment assigned today.)

Readings for Next Class: [~30 pages, on cuLearn]

Readings to be assigned.

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**Session 5 – July 16**

- Topic 1 Buddhist Doctrines, Part 1.
- Topic 2 Buddhist Doctrines, Part 2.

**Discussion Assignment 4 – Due July 21, at Noon.**

**Readings for Next Class:**

Readings to be assigned.

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Session 6 – Tuesday, July 21

- Topic 1 Buddhist Art and Architecture.
- Topic 2 Buddhist *Tantra*.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 4.

Discussion Assignment 5 – Due July 28, at Noon.

Reminder: Midterm Test Thursday, July 23 at 6:05 pm (15%).

Readings for Next Class:

Readings to be assigned.

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**Session 7 – Thursday, July 23**

**Midterm Test Today at 6:05 pm (15%). Scantron, Thirty Minutes.**

Topic 1 Buddhist Traditions and Social Practices. Monastic Practices.

Topic 2 Options open for discussion of issues on the Midterm, or any other matter.

**Readings for Next Class:** [Textbook – 22 pages]

1) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 9: Buddhism in East Asia (pp. 163-185).

2) Additional readings to be assigned.

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Session 8 – Tuesday, July 28

Topic 1 Buddhism in China.

Topic 2 Buddhism in Korea.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 5.

Readings for Next Class:

Additional readings to be assigned.

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**Session 9 – Thursday, July 30**

Topic 1 Buddhism in Japan—An Alien Religion in Historical Context.

Topic 2 Buddhism in Japan—Development and Variety.

**Readings for Next Class:** [Textbook - 16 pages]

1) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 10: Buddhism in Tibet (pp. 186-202).

2) Additional readings to be assigned.

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Session 10 – Tuesday, August 4

Topic 1 Buddhism in Tibet.

Topic 2 Diasporic Tibetan Buddhism.

Reminder: Book Review (25%) Due August 6 at Noon.

Readings for Next Class: [Textbook - 30 pages]

- 1) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 11: Buddhism in the Western World (pp. 204-216).
- 2) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 12: Socially Engaged Buddhism (pp. 217-234).
- 2) Additional readings to be assigned.

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Session 11 – Thursday, August 6

Due Today, at Noon – Book Review (25%)

- Topic 1 Buddhism in a Globalized Culture.
 Topic 2 Socially Engaged Buddhism.

Readings for Next Class: [Textbook - 41 pages]

- 1) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 13: Ethics (pp. 235-257).
- 2) *Buddhism: The eBook* – Chapter 14: Reflections on the Nature and Study of Buddhism (pp. 258-276).
- 3) Additional readings to be assigned.

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Session 12 – Tuesday, August 11

- Topic 1 Buddhist Ethics.
 Topic 2 Past, Present and Future of Buddhist Studies.
 Topic 3 Wrap-up and Review.

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Session 13 – Thursday, August 13

This session is reserved for an extra class in the case that a make-up session or extra review may be required.

NOTES ON EVALUATION:

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. A timely resolution will have to 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.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: Email 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. For more details see the Student Guide.

Religious obligation:

As this course begins during Ramadan, Muslims will be given a suitable period of time to break their fast.

Email me with any requests for academic accommodation prior to or during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. The Paul Menton Centre requires two weeks' notice for any special arrangements.

For more details see the Student Guide.

Please see “REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES” attached to the Course Outline for policy on plagiarism, the grading system, academic accommodation and petitions to defer. The University’s policies on Academic Integrity and Offences apply in the writing of all tests and research assignments.

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 day to withdraw (financial): with a full fee adjustment

Early Summer: May 22. Full Summer May 22.

Late Summer: July 23.

Last Day to withdraw (Academic):

Early Summer June 16. Full/Late Summer: August 14.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term.

<http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/>

For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: contact the instructor 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

Religious obligation: contact the instructor 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.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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