

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2410 A; Fall Term (201730)
“Introduction to Buddhism” (34705)

Instructor: Dr. Richard MacPhail
Office: 310A Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Wed. 3:00-3:45 PM; Thur. 12:00-12:45 PM
Class Hours: Monday & Wednesday 4:05-5:25 PM
Class Location: 180 University Centre (UC)
Email: richard.macphail@carleton.ca
TA: Sharon Angnakak

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

When emailing me, please state which course you are taking, as I am teaching two courses this session.

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 University 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 hours, as the time posted above is the only times 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.

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 (25%): Monday, November 6, at 4:05 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. Midterm and Final Exams will be based on the textbook, lectures, and in-class discussions.

Research Essay (30%): Due Wednesday, November 22, at noon.

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.

You can learn about Chicago Style at this link:

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

Comprehensive instructions and a sample essay modeling correct 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 to me by email attachment by Wednesday, November 15, one week before the due date.

Your grade will be adjusted downward for any failure to comply with the prescribed Chicago style, and for deficiencies in spelling, and grammar. 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 (25%): Scheduled by Scheduling and Exam Services between December 10-22.

Two hours, Essay and Scantron (multiple choice and true/false), covering the topics since the Midterm. **Do not plan to travel on examination dates.**

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 - September 6 - Wednesday

Welcome. Outline of the Course. What to expect.

Topic 1 - Overview of Buddhism

Review of the Course Outline.

Discussion Question 1(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Monday, September 11.

Reading for Next Class:

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

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

Session 2 - September 11 - Monday

Topic 2 - Religion as a field of study.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Question 1(a).

Discussion Question 1(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Wednesday, September 13.

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

Reading for Next Class:

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

Session 3 - September 13 - Wednesday

Topic 3 - Cultural background.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Questions 1(b) & 2(a).

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

Discussion Question 3(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Monday, September 18.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Selections from the *Dhammapāda*, posted on cuLearn.

Session 4 - September 18 - Monday

Topic 4 - Life of the Buddha.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Questions 2(b) & 3(a).

Discussion Question 3(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Wednesday, September 20.

Discussion Question 4(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Wednesday, September 20.

Reading for Next Class:

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

Session 5 - September 20 - Wednesday

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

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Questions 3(b) & 4(a).

Discussion Question 4(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Monday, September 25.

Reading for Next Class:

BTE - Ch 6: *Mahāyāna* (pp. 100-119).

Session 6 - September 25 - Monday

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

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Question 4(b).

Readings for Next Class:

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

Session 7 - September 27 - Wednesday

Topic 7 - Buddhist Contemplative Traditions and Rituals.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Session 8 - October 2 - Monday

Topic 8 - Buddhism in South-east Asia.

Discussion Question 5(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Wednesday, October 4.

Discussion Question 5(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Wednesday, October 16.

Readings for Next Class:

~15 pages, posted on see cuLearn

Session 9 - October 4 - Wednesday

Topic 9 - Buddhist Doctrines, Part 1.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Question 5(a).

Readings for Next Class:

~15 pages, posted on see cuLearn

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October 9 - Monday - Thanksgiving Day - No Classes

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Session 10 - October 11 - Wednesday

Topic 10 - Buddhist Doctrines, Part 2.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Additional resources to be assigned.

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Session 11 - October 16 - Monday

Topic 11 - Buddhist Art and Architecture.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Question 5(b).

Readings for Next Class:

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

Additional resources to be assigned.

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Session 12 - October 18 - Wednesday

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).

Additional resources to be assigned.

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***** **October 23-27 - Fall Break - No classes** *****

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Session 13 - October 30 - Monday

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

Readings for Next Class:

BTE - Ch 9: Buddhism in East Asia (pp. 163-171).

Additional resources to be assigned.

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Session 14 - November 1 - Wednesday

Reminder: Midterm Test, covering Topics 1-12.

Wednesday, November 6 at 4:05 PM (25%).

Topic 14 - Buddhism in China.

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Session 15 - November 6 - Monday

Midterm Test Today at 4:05 pm Scantron and Essay, 60 Minutes.

Readings for Next Class:

Additional resources to be assigned.

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Session 16 - November 8 - Wednesday

Topic 15 - Buddhism in China, continued.

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

Readings for Next Class:

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

Additional resources to be assigned.

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November 13 - Monday - Remembrance Day (Observed) - No Classes

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Session 17 - November 15 - Wednesday

Last day to submit Research Essay outlines or abstracts for comments.

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

Readings for Next Class:

Additional resources to be assigned.

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Session 18 - November 20 - Monday

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.

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Session 19 - November 22 - Wednesday

Research Essay Due Today at Noon (30%)

Topic 18 - Buddhism in Tibet.

Readings for Next Class:

Additional resources to be assigned.

Session 20 - November 27 - Monday

Topic 19 - Diasporic Tibetan Buddhism.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Additional resources to be assigned.

Session 21 - November 29 - Wednesday

Topic 20 - Buddhism in a Globalized Culture.

Readings for Next Class:

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

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

Additional resources to be assigned.

Session 22 - December 4 - Monday

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.

Session 23 - December 6 - Wednesday

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

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.

Please see "REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES" attached below 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.

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: 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. For more details see the Student Guide.

Religious obligation: 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. For more details see the Student Guide.

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).



University Regulations for 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.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

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Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System Chart](#)

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Statement on Class Conduct

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and

preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

Deferred Exams

Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office **no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination;** and
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and in cases of illness by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to: [Registrar's Office](#)

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

NEW FALL 2017: WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Dates can be found here: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

Department Contact Information

College of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

Registrar's Office 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

Student Resources on Campus

[CUKnowHow Website](#)