

**The College of the Humanities**  
**Religion Program: RELI 2410A; Late Summer**  
**“Introduction to Buddhism” (21370)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Richard MacPhail  
**Office:** PA 2A35 (Paterson Hall, floor 2A)  
**Office Hours:** Monday 5:00 to 5:50  
**Class Hours:** MW 6:05 to 8:55 pm  
**Class Location:** SA 517 (Southam Hall)  
**Email:** [richard.macphail@carleton.ca](mailto:richard.macphail@carleton.ca)

Email policy: We 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. Twenty percent of the evaluation of this course is based on brief written assignments meant to explore general themes in religion. These assignments are graded for written English competence rather than for content, allowing students to both explore their ideas freely and to assess their communication skills.

**Please Be Aware** that, like other technical subjects, the study of Buddhism requires the learning and use of a range of technical terms since English language terms in common use do not adequately represent their meanings. The non-English terms used in this course are Sanskrit language terms in Roman transliteration. Please do not register in this course if you may object to this requirement.

**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, smart phones, 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 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. 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 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.** There are twelve (12) sessions in this course. Absence from more than three (3) sessions without substantiating documentation is unacceptable.

If a significant drop-off in attendance is observed, signing an attendance sheet at the end of each session will be required.

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%).

**These are due by Noon on the dates of Sessions 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10.** 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 will give you opportunity to express your thoughts on the topics freely, without concern about “right” or “wrong” answers as they will not be graded on content, but only on

demonstrated writing skills, such as spelling and grammar. Feedback on writing skills and corrective action will be provided.

2) **Midterm Test, Wednesday, July 27, at 6:05 pm.**

In-class; Scantron, multiple choice, true/false (40 minutes; 25%).

3) **Book Review of the course textbook, *Buddhism—The eBook, Fourth Edition*, due Wednesday, August 10, 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? Instructions and a model for formatting your Book Review will be provided on cuLearn. Please follow them.

In order for instructor's comments to be returned to you along with this assignment, you will submit your book review electronically through cuLearn in an **editable format**, such as .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .odt. Formats such as .pdf or .epub will **NOT** be accepted. Paper copies will not be required.

Late Book Reviews may be accepted, but your grade will be reduced by one grade level (for example, A- to B+) for each day late. Take note that I do not hesitate to implement the University's regulations on **Plagiarism**. For clarification, please see: <http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

4) **Final Examination** scheduled by SES (2 hours, 30%). Scantron, multiple choice, true/false. The final exam will focus primarily on material since the Midterm, but will be cumulative and may include material from any part of the course.

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

## **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 it. 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 subsequent sessions.*

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### **Session 1 - Monday, 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* - Chapter 1: Background to Buddhism (pp. 2-24).

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 2: The *Buddha* (pp. 25-41).

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 3: The *Dharma* (pp. 42-59).

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 4: The Buddhist *Samgha* (pp. 60-77).

#### **Discussion Assignment 1 - Due July 11, at Noon.**

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### **Session 2 - Wednesday, July 6**

Topic 3 - Cultural background.

Topic 4 - Life of the Buddha.

#### **Reading for Next Class:**

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 5: Buddhism in India (pp. 79-99).

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 6: *Mahāyāna* (pp. 100-119).

The *Dhammapada*

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### **Session 3 - Monday, July 11**

#### **Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 1.**

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

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

**Readings for Next Class:**

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 7: Meditation (pp. 120-142).

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 8: Buddhism in South-east Asia (pp. 143-162).

**Discussion Assignment 2 - Due July 13, at Noon.**

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**Session 4 - Wednesday, July 13**

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

Topic 7 - Buddhist Contemplative Traditions and Rituals.

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

**Readings for Next Class:**

~30 pages, posted on cuLearn

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**Session 5 - Monday, July 18**

**Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 3.**

Topic 9 - Buddhist Doctrines, Part 1.

Topic 10 - Buddhist Doctrines, Part 2.

**Readings for Next Class:**

Review *Buddhism: the eBook* - Chapter 5: Buddhism in India (pp. 86-91)

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

**Discussion Assignment 4 - Due July 20, at Noon.**

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**Session 6 - Wednesday, July 20**

**Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 4.**

Topic 11 - Buddhist Art and Architecture.

Topic 12 - Buddhist *Tantra*.

**Readings for Next Class:**

*Buddhism: The eBook:*

Review Chapter 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 Chapter 8: Buddhism in South-east Asia

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

Chapter 9: Buddhism in East Asia

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

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

Further resources to be assigned.

**Discussion Assignment 5 - Due August 3, at Noon.**

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**Session 7 - Monday, July 25**

**Reminder: Midterm Test Wednesday, July 27 at 6:05 pm (25%).**

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

**Review for Midterm Exam, based on your questions.**

**Readings for Next Class:**

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 9: Buddhism in East Asia (pp. 162-171).

Further resources to be assigned.

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**Session 8 - Wednesday, July 27**

**Midterm Test Today at 6:05 pm Scantron, 40 Minutes, 25%.**

Topic 14 - Buddhism in China.

Topic 15 - Buddhism in China, continued.

**Readings for Next Class:**

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 9: Buddhism in East Asia (pp. 175-185).

Further resources to be assigned.

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**Session 9 - Wednesday, August 3**

**Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 5**

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:**

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

Further resources to be assigned.

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**Session 10 - Monday, August 8**

Topic 18 - Buddhism in Tibet.

Topic 19 - Diasporic Tibetan Buddhism.

**Reminder: Book Review (25%) Due August 10 at Noon.**

**Readings for Next Class:**

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 11: Buddhism in the Western World (pp. 204-216).

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 12: Socially Engaged Buddhism (pp. 217-234).

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**Session 11 - Wednesday, August 10**

**Book Review (25%) Due Today at Noon.**

Topic 20 - Buddhism in a Globalized Culture.

Topic 21 - Socially Engaged Buddhism.

**Readings for Next Class:**

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 13: Ethics (pp. 235-257).

*Buddhism: The eBook* - Chapter 14: Reflections on the Nature and Study of Buddhism (pp. 258-276).

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**Session 12 - Monday, August 15**

Topic 22 - Buddhist Ethics.

Topic 23 - Past, Present and Future of Buddhist Studies.

Wrap-up and Review.

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The final exam will take place between August 19-25, as scheduled by Scheduling and Examination Services.

***Note 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:*

*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 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.

## 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 20, 2016. Full Summer May 20, 2016

Late Summer: July 25 2016

**Last Day to withdraw (Academic):**

Early Summer June 14, 2016.

Full/Late Summer: August 16, 2016 & any other courses that end this term.

### 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](mailto: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 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library