

Carleton University

FALL 2015

The College of the Humanities

Religion Program: RELI 2410A

“Introduction to Buddhism” (34628)

Instructor: Dr. Richard MacPhail

Office: 2A60 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Class Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:05 to 11:25 am

Class Location: 182 University Centre

Email: richard.macphail@carleton.ca

Teaching Assistant: Alexandra Nahas

Email: alex.nahas@carleton.ca

Email policy: We attempt to respond to emails within 24 hours, except on weekends.

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.”

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. The Carleton web page and all its resources may be accessed through your computer, tablet or smart phone. 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.

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

twenty-four (24) sessions in this course. Absence from more than six (6) 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%).

These are due by Noon on the dates of Sessions 2, 4, 8, 10, and 11. 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, Wednesday, November 4, at 10:05 am.**

In-class; Scantron, multiple choice, true/false; 40 minutes; 15%.

- 3) **Book Review of the course textbook, *Buddhism—The eBook, Fourth Edition*, due Wednesday, November 25, 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.

A model for formatting your Book Review will be provided on cuLearn.

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**.

- 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.

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 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 the following sessions.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 1 - Friday, September 4

Instructors with a Monday class will start their class on Friday, Sept. 4.

Welcome.

Outline of the Course and what to expect.

Topic 1 - Overview of Buddhism

Review of the Course Outline.

Discussion Assignment 1 - Due September 9, at Noon.

Survey of Student Interest - Due September 9, at Noon.

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).

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 2 - Wednesday, September 9

Topic 2 - Religion as a field of study.

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

Discussion Assignment 2 - Due September 16, at Noon.

Reading for Next Class:

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 3 - Monday, September 14

Topic 3 - Cultural background.

Readings for Next Class:

Buddhism: The eBook – Chapter 4: The Buddhist Saṃgha (pp. 60-77).

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 4 - Wednesday, September 16

Topic 4 - Life of the Buddha.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 2.

Discussion Assignment 3 - Due September 30, at Noon.

Reading for Next Class:

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 5 - Monday, September 21

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

Reading for Next Class:

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 6 - Wednesday, September 23

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

Readings for Next Class:

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 7 - Monday, September 28

Topic 7 - Buddhist Contemplative Traditions and Rituals.

Readings for Next Class:

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 8 - Wednesday, September 30

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

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 3.

Discussion Assignment 4 - Due October 7, at Noon.

Readings for Next Class:

~15 pages, posted on see cuLearn

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 9 - Monday, October 5

Topic 9 - Buddhist Doctrines, Part 1.

Readings for Next Class:

~15 pages, posted on see cuLearn

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 10 - Wednesday, October 7

Topic 10 - Buddhist Doctrines, Part 2.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 4.

Discussion Assignment 5 - Due October 14, at Noon.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 11 - Wednesday, October 14

Topic 11 - Buddhist Art and Architecture.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Assignment 5

Readings for Next Class:

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

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 12 - Monday, October 19

Topic 12 - Buddhist *Tantra*.

Readings for Next Class:

Review *Buddhism: The eBook*:

Chapter 4: The Buddhist *Sangha*

"The *Vinaya*" (pp. 63-67).

"The laity" (pp. 67-68).

"Monastic life", "Monastic vocations" (Text box) (pp. 70-72).

"Buddhist nuns" (pp. 73-76).

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).

"Modern developments in Korean Buddhism" (Text box) (p.175)

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

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 13 - Wednesday, October 21

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

Readings for Next Class:

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

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

October 26 to 30 - Reading Week No Classes

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 14 - Monday, November 2

Reminder: Midterm Test Wednesday, November 4 at 10:05 am (15%).

Topic 14 - Buddhism in China.

Readings for Next Class:

Buddhism: The eBook - Chapter 9: Buddhism in East Asia (pp. 163-171).

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 15 - Wednesday, November 4

Midterm Test Today at 10:05 am (15%). Scantron, Forty Minutes.

Topic 15 - Buddhism in China, continued.

Readings for Next Class:

Buddhism: The eBook - Chapter 9: Buddhism in East Asia (pp. 171-175).

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 16 - Monday, November 9

Topic 16 - Buddhism in Korea.

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

Readings for Next Class:

Buddhism: The eBook - Chapter 9: Buddhism in East Asia (pp. 175-183).

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 17 - Wednesday, November 11

*****Remembrance Day: Two minutes of silence at 11:00 am.*****

Topic 17 - Buddhism in Japan--An Alien Religion in Historical Context.

Readings for Next Class:

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 18 - Monday, November 16

Topic 18 - Buddhism in Japan--Development and Variety.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 19 - Wednesday, November 18

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

Topic 19 - Buddhism in Tibet.

Readings for Next Class:

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 20 - Monday, November 23

Topic 20 - Diasporic Tibetan Buddhism.

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

Readings for Next Class:

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

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 21 - Wednesday, November 25

Book Review (25%) Due Today at Noon.

Topic 21 - Buddhism in a Globalized Culture.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 22 - Monday, November 30

Topic 22 - Socially Engaged Buddhism.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 23 - Wednesday, December 2

Topic 23 - Buddhist Ethics.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Further readings to be assigned.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Session 24 - Monday, December 7

Topic 24 - Past, Present and Future of Buddhist Studies.

Wrap-up and Review.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 7, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2016**.

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. 6, 2015** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2016** 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 a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, 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