Instructor: Prof. Angela Sumegi
Office: 2A53 PA Office hours: Thursdays 12 – 2 p.m.
Voice-mail: 520-2600 ex. 2107 E-mail: angela_sumegi@carleton.ca
Lectures: Wednesdays 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Location: Unicentre 279

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an in depth exploration of the doctrines, practices and institutions described in the Pali Canon and in some post canonical texts associated with the Theravāda School of Buddhism. A key theme will be the social and philosophical context of the Buddha’s teachings and the impact of that context on the evolution of Theravāda theory and practice. Finally, we will look at some aspects of the development of Theravāda in Sri Lanka.

This course assumes prior familiarization with Buddhist history and philosophy. If you have none, please expect that a certain amount of extra catch up reading will be required of you. Please consult the professor for her recommendations.

Course Objectives:

This course is offered both for general interest and to provide a thorough foundation for further academic study in the field of Buddhism. Therefore, it is intended to:

a) Familiarize the student with Pali terminology that goes beyond the basics.
b) Introduce the student to the importance of context in the evolution of the development of Buddhist schools of interpretation.
c) Stimulate discussion of Buddhist philosophy, ethics, and rituals relative to the social context of 6th century BCE India and as compared to contemporary societies.
d) Provide a thorough grounding in the origins of Buddhist thought and its Theravāda developments

Class Discussion
In most sessions, the second half of the class will be devoted to class discussion of the issues raised in the readings for that day. To that end, besides doing the readings, every student is required to bring to class a list of 2 or 3 questions or topics that could spark discussion. These are not to be questions that elicit information – those questions may be asked at any time during the class – your discussion questions/topics should facilitate in depth exploration of the issues and concerns that come to mind when you have done the reading.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

**Recommended Reading:**  
*What the Buddha Taught* by Walpola Rahula. GROVE/ATLANTIC; Revised edition, 1974  

**COURSE EVALUATION:**

| 1. In class quiz | Feb. 15 | 35% |
| 2. Written assignment | Mar. 7 | 15% |
| 3. Final Take home exam | TBA | 40% |
| 4. Class discussion participation | | 10% |

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

1. There are no grade-raising exams or assignments for this course. If you miss the in class quiz due to illness or family crisis, in order to be allowed to write it at another time, you must provide a letter signed by your doctor or minister or counsellor stating the reason for missing the test.
2. If you miss the final exam, you are required to apply for a deferral from the University.
A detailed reading list will be handed out at the first class. Except for the first class, students are expected to come to class prepared for discussion.

Jan. 4  Introduction and overview of the Pali Canon
Jan. 11 The Buddha and his contemporaries: the socio-historical context.
Jan. 18 The Buddha and his contemporaries: idealization and controversy
Jan. 25 The Dhamma as virtue
Feb. 1 The Dhamma as meditation
Feb. 8 The Dhamma as wisdom
Feb. 15 In class Quiz (one hour) / lecture on Early Buddhist psychology
Feb. 22 WINTER BREAK
Feb. 29 Early history of the Sangha
Mar. 7 Women in the sangha (Written assignment due)
Mar. 21 Theravāda practices in Sri Lanka
Mar. 28 Buddhism and the Spirit World
Apr. 4 Contemporary issues in Theravada Buddhism (Take home exam)
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 an instructor. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

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. 11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 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 4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 4th Floor Library

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
The last date to withdraw from FALL TERM courses is DEC. 5, 2011. The last day to withdraw from FALL/WINTER (Full Term) and WINTER term courses is APRIL 5, 2012.