

College of the Humanities

Religion Program: RELI 4852B / 5852W

“Contemporary Buddhist Movements”

Professor: Angela Sumegi Class hours: Wednesdays & Fridays 2:30 – 4 p.m.
Office: 2A53 Paterson Hall Class Location: 2A46 PA
Office phone: 520-2600 ex 2107 E-mail: angela.sumegi@carleton.ca
Office hours: Wednesdays, 1 – 2:30 p.m. or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contemporary Buddhist Movements:

Nightstand Buddhists and other globalized Buddhisms

This seminar course for graduate and 4th year students will engage students in the examination of Buddhist and Buddhist-inspired movements in contemporary societies. We will explore the modern Buddhist involvement with environmentalism, religious reform and secular humanism, psychotherapy and personal well-being, as well as issues relating to Buddhism and the State. Students can choose their presentation topics from a wide range of Buddhist traditions and movements manifest in places such as China, Bhutan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Taiwan, and Canada/USA. A primary goal of the course is to break down stereotypes and dichotomies such as traditional versus modern, native versus convert, socially engaged versus apart from the world, pacifist versus aggressive etc. and to allow students to appreciate the complexity of the ways in which religious systems and their adherents continually negotiate their place and function within local and global societies. Prior exposure to Buddhist philosophy is helpful but not mandatory as the course is focused on cultural and socio-political issues. Necessary information relating to Buddhism as a religion will be provided in lectures and readings.

Required Reading:

- 2012, David McMahan, ed., *Buddhism in the Modern World* (Routledge)
 - Additional weekly readings will be available via links and PDFs through the ARES system of the Carleton library
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

All Students: Participation: 20% based on weekly reading response papers, 10x2%

Response Papers

Since the success of a seminar course depends on class participation and discussion, students will be asked to submit a typewritten double-spaced, 1 – 2 page response to the assigned readings for the week, consisting of *two or more central points* of the reading for that week, and *two or more critical questions* that you have regarding it. These questions can arise from points you did not understand, points that could be considered further, or points on which you disagree with the author, etc. Since these questions are intended to facilitate discussion, students are asked to bring two copies to class, one for yourself and one for me. Eleven responses are required, the best ten will be counted or you may miss one submission without penalty.

For students registered in 4852B:

One Critical Review and Class Presentation: 20%

Beginning in the third week of classes, one student will be responsible for writing a critical review (3-5 pages, double-spaced) of the readings for each session, presenting it to the class, and leading discussion on it. At the beginning of term, each student will sign up for one class presentation. The critical review will be essentially a more formal and expanded version of the response paper. It should include an introductory paragraph, a summary/description of the thesis and main points of the reading, your critical questions/comments, and concluding paragraph.

Term paper proposal: 10% Due March 7

The 2-3 page essay proposal should include: a working title, thesis statement or organizing question, outline of the plan for the paper, and a working bibliography.

Term paper: (12-15 pages) 50% Due April 4

For students registered in 5852:

Two Critical Reviews and Class Presentations: each worth 10% for a total of 20%

Beginning in the third week of classes, one student will be responsible for writing a critical review (3-5 pages, double-spaced) of the readings for each session, presenting it to the class, and leading discussion on it. At the beginning of term, each student will sign up for two class presentations. The critical review will be essentially a more formal and expanded version of the response paper. It should include an introductory paragraph, a summary/description of the thesis and main points of the reading, your critical questions, and concluding paragraph.

Term paper proposal: 10% Due March 7

The 2-3 page essay proposal should include: a working title, thesis statement or organizing question, outline of the plan for the paper, and an annotated bibliography.

Term paper: (18-20 pages plus abstract) 50% Due April 4

COURSE READINGS

January 8 – Course introduction (no reading)

January 10

- Martin Baumann, “Global Buddhism: Developmental Periods, Regional Histories, and a New Analytical Perspective” *Journal of Global Buddhism* 2 (2001): 1-43

Jan. 15/17

- Victor Hori “How Do We Study Buddhism in Canada?” in *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada*, MQUP: 13-38
- Alexander Soucy, “Asian Reformers, Global Organizations: An Exploration of the Possibility of a Canadian Buddhism” in *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada*, MQUP: 40-60

Jan. 22/24 and subsequently:

- Beginning with this class, we will make our way through the series of articles collected in McMahon’s “Buddhism in the Modern World.” Students will give presentations on these and other supplemental readings. A detailed reading list for the rest of the semester will be discussed with the students at the first class. _

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. 9, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2014**.

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. 8, 2013** for the Fall term and **March 7, 2014** 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	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library