

The College of the Humanities**Religion Program: RELI 2410 Buddhism Winter Term****Instructor:** Chris Emms**Office:** Online!**Email:** christopheremms@carleton.ca**Office hours:** Wed. 2:00-4:00 pm**Lecture:** Tues/Thurs 8:35–10:05**Course Description**

In this course, students will be introduced to the academic study of Buddhism. We will explore the history, doctrines, and practices of Buddhism across various places and times. Over the semester, we will engage with material from Southeast and East Asia, including India, China, Japan, and Tibet. In the first part of the course, we will cover central aspects of Buddhist thought and practice that, while originating in India, continued to be important outside the Indian subcontinent. In the second part of the course, we will then see how these ideas and practices changed and developed outside of Southeast Asia. Our lens throughout this course will be a central element across Buddhist traditions, the Three Jewels of Buddhism: (1) the Buddha, (2) the Dharma, or the Buddha's teachings, and (3) the Samgha, or the monastic order. As we move across place and time, we will continue to reflect on both continuity and change of Buddhist thought and practice, with respect to the Three Jewels.

Online Course Description and Teaching Methods

This course will function in a hybrid fashion, which means that it will contain both asynchronous pre-recorded material as well as synchronous live material. The breakdown of hours will be roughly 1/3 pre-recorded material, and 2/3 synchronous live material. This means that there will be roughly 50 minutes of pre-recorded video per week. Students will watch the pre-recorded material before the first class of the week (Tuesday). We will then meet for one hour (9:05am–9:55am) on both Tuesday and Thursday. On Tuesdays, we will go over matters relevant to the recorded lectures and Tuesday readings. On Thursdays, we will regularly break into groups, for group discussion about the primary sources assigned for the Thursday classes. We will also use the Thursday hours to go over things like writing tips, thesis generation, etc. Note that each week contains about 30–40 pages of readings.

In summary, students should watch the prerecorded video and read the readings assigned for Tuesday before Tuesday's synchronous hour at 9:05am, and then read the primary readings assigned before Thursday's synchronous hour at 9:05am.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the historical development, basic data, and disciplinary vocabulary associated with Buddhism
- Engage with primary texts
- Analyse secondary texts
- Summarize a long article in a coherent synopsis
- Develop research and writing skills

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Participation (10%)

- On the Thursday meetings, students will be asked to participate in group discussions involving the assigned primary readings, occasional writing exercises, etc. We will then reconvene to discuss various aspects of these group activities. Students are expected to be prepared and actively engage in these discussions.

Take-home Assignments (optionally in groups 2–3) (15% Total- 5% each x 3)

- Throughout the year students will submit **THREE (3)** small online assignments from four options. Students have the opportunity to complete all four of these, and only the three highest grades will count. These will be short assignments (**about 250 words**) in which students will have to find a (roughly) contemporary article, video, podcast, painting, video game, song etc., related to a specific topic. Students will briefly discuss and relate this item to our course content. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be given out January 21, 2021. The specific dates are:

Buddha Quotation Assignment (**Due February 4, 2021**)

Jātaka Assignment (**Due March 4, 2021**)

Mindfulness Assignment (**Due April 1, 2021**)

Dalai Lama Assignment (**Due April 8, 2021**)

Online Quizzes (25%) Due Dates Given Below

- Throughout the year, students will write **NINE (9)** online quizzes, to help make sure students are grasping key elements of the course, keeping up on the assigned readings, etc. The first two quizzes will be smaller and serve to introduce students to the course, both of which will be worth 2%. The remaining quizzes will cover the readings and course content, and will each be worth 3%. Note that students will have the opportunity to write **two bonus quizzes** that they can use to replace a lower mark from a prior quiz. The Online Quizzes will be written on CuLearn and are asynchronous. They will go live on Thursdays, and be due within 24 hours (Friday at 10:00 am), excluding one of the bonus quizzes.

Written Assignment (20%): Due March 25, 2021

- Students will complete a written assignment approximately **1200 words (about four to five pages)**. For this assignment, students will choose some item, a text, a ritual item, a sculpture, a building, a biography, a pilgrimage etc., and discuss it with respect to the material that we have covered in class. One aspect of this discussion will involve considering continuity and variation with respect to traditional thoughts/ideas/practices. Detailed instructions for the written assignment will be distributed February 11th, 2021.

Final Assignment (30%): Due April 27, 2021

- The final assignment will be a take-home project due on the final day of the exam period. Each student will create a final exam, encompassing multiple choice, short answer, and long answer questions, together with an answer key. Through this assignment, students will demonstrate their knowledge of key themes, important concepts, etc. from throughout the semester. Specific details about the assignment will be provided in the final class.

Required & Recommended Texts

- Harvey, Peter. 2013. *An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History, and Practices* (Second edition). Cambridge University Press. ebook format (ISBN: 9781139847711; ASIN: B00A8GYQZ6).
- All other readings will be posted online on CULearn

Week 1: Introductory Material *Note: For the first week, there will not be any pre-recorded videos, and so we will meet virtually at 9:05am on Tuesday and Thursday, without students needing to watch any video content.

Tuesday, January 12: Introductions! The Three Jewels: Buddha, Dharma, Saṃgha

Readings: None

Thursday, January 14: India at the Time of the Buddha and Canonical Languages

Readings: Harvey pages 8–14; Selection from Patrick Olivelle's "Introduction" in *The Upanishads*, pages xxiv–xxxiii

**** Quiz 1: Syllabus Quiz due Friday Jan. 15 at 10:00 am!** (Note: students will receive the 2% for completing this quiz only when they receive 100% on it. Students can keep re-submitting until they get 100% on it, up until this deadline of January 15)

Week 2: The Buddha: The Life of the Buddha

Tuesday, January 19: The Ideal Life

Readings: Harvey 8–31

Thursday, January 21: The Four Sights

Readings: Selection from Āśvaghoṣa's *Buddhacārita*: Olivelle, pages 63–85 (note: only the odd pages)

**** Quiz 2: Introductory video due Friday Jan. 22 at 10:00 am!**

Week 3: The Dharma: The Teachings of the Buddha Part I: The Buddhist World, Karma & Rebirth

Tuesday, January 26: Karma & Rebirth

Readings: Harvey 32–49

Thursday, January 28: Primary readings on Karma and Creation

Readings: The Origin of the World: <https://suttacentral.net/dn27/en/sujato> ;

The Longer Analysis of Deeds: <https://suttacentral.net/mn136/en/sujato>

**** Quiz 3 goes live. Due Friday Jan. 29 at 10:00 am!**

Week 4: The Dharma: The Teachings of the Buddha Part II: The Four Noble Truths & The Middle Path

Tuesday, February 2: The Four Noble Truths & The Middle Path

Readings: Harvey 50–87

Thursday, February 4: The Buddha's First Sermon

Readings: *Setting Rolling the Wheel of Truth*:

<https://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/sn/sn56/sn56.011.nymo.html>

**** Take-home Assignment (Buddha Quotation) Due at 10:00am!**

**** Quiz 4 goes live. Due Friday Feb. 5 at 10:00 am!**

Week 5: The Saṃgha: Origins of Monasticism

Tuesday, February 9: The Early Saṃgha

Readings: Harvey 88–90; The origin of the monastic law (only Sections 2–4): <https://suttacentral.net/pli-tv-bu-vb-pj1/en/brahmali>

Thursday, February 11: Women in Early Monasticism and The Ordination of Nuns

Readings: Ute Hüsken, "Gender and Early Buddhist Monasticism," pages 215–230

**** Quiz 5 goes live. Due Friday Feb. 12 at 10:00 am!**

Week 6: Feb 15–19: Winter Break!

Week 7: Jātakas, The Past Lives of the Buddha: Rebirth, Heaven, and Perfections

February 23 1: An introduction to Past Life Narratives

Readings: Selection from Sarah Shaw's "Introduction" in *The Jātakas: Birth Stories of the Bodhisattva*: pages xix–l

February 25: Influential *Jātakas*

Readings: Selections from Āryaśūra's *Jātakamālā*: The Tigress (Khorochē, *Once the Buddha Was a Monkey*, pages 5–9); The Hare (pages 32–38); Śibi (pages 10–17).

**** Quiz 6 goes live. Due Friday Feb. 26 at 10:00 am!**

Week 8: Abhidharma, Buddhist Sectarianism and the rise of Mahāyāna

March 2: Abhidharma, Buddhist Sectarianism and the rise of Mahāyāna

Readings: Harvey 90–113

March 4: A look at Monastery Sites

Readings: Take the Virtual tour of Sañci: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/sanchi-incredibleindia/IQVRPVqleWxhZg?hl=en>

**** Take-home Assignment (Jātaka) Due at 10:00 am!**

**** Quiz 7 goes live. Due Friday March 5 at 10:00 am!**

Week 9: Mahāyāna thought & Bodhisattvas

March 9: Mahāyāna thought & Bodhisattvas

Readings: Harvey 114–150

March 11: Influential Mahāyāna sutras

Readings: Heart Sūtra (127–128); The Smaller Sutra on Amitāyus: The Sutra on Amitāyus Buddha Delivered by Śākyamuni (90–95); Selection from the Lotus Sūtra (56–62)

**** Quiz 8 goes live. Due Friday March 12 at 10:00 am!**

Week 10: Meditation and Liberation

March 16: Meditation and ways to liberation

Readings: Harvey 318–340

March 18: Meditation and ways to liberation continued & Writing Tips

Readings: None

**** Quiz 9 goes live. Due Friday March 19 at 10:00 am!**

Week 11: Buddhism in East Asia: Part I: China, Korea, Vietnam

March 23: Buddhism in China, Korea, Vietnam

Readings: Harvey 210–226, *The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*: Chapter One (17–27);

March 25: Buddhism in China

Readings: None

****Written Assignment Due Due at 10:00 am!!**

Week 12: Buddhism in East Asia: Japan

March 30: Buddhism in Japan

Readings: Harvey 226–236; Harvey 361–375

April 1:

Readings: Selection from Kūkai's *The Meaning Of Becoming A Buddha In This Very Body* (Giebel, 65–80)

**** Take-home Assignment (Mindfulness) Due at 10:00 am!**

**** Bonus quiz goes live. Due Thurs. April 1 at 11:59 pm!**

Week 13: Tantra and Buddhism in Tibet

April 6: Tantra, Liberation in this life, Buddhism in Tibet

Readings: Harvey, 180–193; 202–210

April 8: Yogis and the biography of Milarepa

Readings: Milarepa: https://treasuryoflives.org/biographies/view/Milarepa/TBRC_P1853

Selections from Heruka's *The Life of Milarepa* (Quintman, 45–52; 69–85)

**** Take-home Assignment (Dalai Lama) Due at 10:00 am!**

**** Bonus quiz goes live. Due Friday Apr. 9 at 10:00 am!**

Week 14: Review

April 13: Review; Final Assignment Distribution

****Final Assignment Due April 27th**



Humanities

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the [Important Dates and Deadlines section](#) of the Registration Website.

Online Learning Resources

While online courses offer flexibility and convenience, they also present unique challenges that traditional face-to-face courses do not. [On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

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

The University Senate defines **plagiarism** as “*presenting, whether intentionally 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Academic Integrity Process](#)

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Parental Leave: The Student Parental Leave Policy is intended to recognize the need for leave at the time of a pregnancy, birth or adoption and to permit a pause in studies in order to provide full-time care in the first year of parenting a child or for health-related parental responsibilities.

Religious obligation: Carleton University accommodates students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities is available through the [Paul Menton Centre](#) by evaluations that are carried out on an individual basis, in accordance with human rights legislation and University policy, and with the support of relevant, professional/medical documentation.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

Individuals who disclose that they have experienced sexual violence will be provided support services and will be treated with dignity and respect at all times by the University and its representatives. A person affected by sexual violence is not required to report an incident or make a complaint about sexual violence under the formal complaint process of the Sexual Violence Policy in order to obtain support and services, or in order to receive appropriate accommodation for their needs.

[Supports and services available at the University to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support.](#)

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. [More information.](#)

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. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean."

The [system of grades](#) used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion, is listed below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value.

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).

[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

[7 Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

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.

1. 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. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.

[More information of deferred Term Work](#)

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

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 [here](#).

[More information on Final Exam Deferrals](#)

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#). Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for

Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. You can do this via the [MyCarleton Portal](#). A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load.

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca