

**The College of the Humanities**

**Religion Program: RELI 2410 Buddhism Winter Term**

**Instructor:** Chris Emms

**Office:** Online

**Email:** [christopheremms@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:christopheremms@cunet.carleton.ca) **Office hours:** Wed. 16:00-17:00 pm

**Lecture:** Mon./Wed. 14:35–15:55 online

**Teaching Assistants:**

Dana Mitchell

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Brightspace Course Page Link: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/286419>

**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 Saṃgha, 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.

**Prerequisites**

Prerequisites additional credit for RELI 1006 and RELI 2106

**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

**Texts & Course Materials**

- Harvey, Peter. 2013. *An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History, and Practices* (Second edition). Cambridge University Press. digital (ISBN: 9781139050531) or paperback (9780521676748).
- Cost of Educational Material: Estimated \$41.99
- All other readings will be posted online on Brightspace, and are not required to be purchased

## Course Calendar:

### Week 1: Introductory Material

Monday, January 6: Introductions! The Three Jewels: Buddha, Dharma, Saṃgha

Readings: None

Wednesday, January 8: India at the Time of the Buddha and Canonical Languages

Readings: Harvey pages 8–14; Selection from Patrick Olivelle's "Introduction" in *The Early Upanisads: Annotated Text and Translation*, pages 3–10

**\*\* Quiz 1: Syllabus Quiz due Thursday Jan. 9 at 4:00 pm! (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 9)**

### Week 2: The Buddha: The Life of the Buddha

Monday, January 13: The Ideal Life

Readings: Harvey 8–31

Wednesday, January 15: The Four Sights

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

**\*\* Quiz 2: Introductory video due Thursday Jan. 16 at 4:00 pm!**

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

Monday, January 20: Karma & Rebirth

Readings: Harvey 32–49

Wednesday, January 22: 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 Thursday Jan. 23 at 4:00 pm!**

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

Monday, January 27: The Four Noble Truths & The Middle Path

Readings: Harvey 50–87

Wednesday, January 29: The Buddha's First Sermon

Readings: *Setting Rolling the Wheel of Truth*:

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

**\*\* Quiz 4 goes live. Due Thursday Jan. 30 at 4:00 pm!**

## **Week 5: The Saṃgha: Origins of Monasticism**

Monday, February 3: 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>

Wednesday, February 5: Women in Early Monasticism and The Ordination of Nuns

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

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

**\*\* Quiz 5 goes live. Due Thursday Feb. 6 at 4:00 pm!**

## **Week 6: Jātakas, The Past Lives of the Buddha: Rebirth, Heaven, and Perfections**

Monday, February 10 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

Wednesday, February 12: 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 Thursday Feb. 13 at 4:00 pm!**

## **Week 7: Feb 17–21: Winter Break!**

## **Week 8: Abhidharma, Buddhist Sectarianism and the Rise of Mahāyāna**

Monday, February 24: Abhidharma, Buddhist Sectarianism and the rise of Mahāyāna

Readings: Harvey 90–113

Wednesday, February 26: 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 Thursday Feb. 27 at 4:00 pm!**

**\*\* Quiz 7 goes live. Due Thursday Feb. 27 at 4:00 pm!**

**Week 9: Mahāyāna thought & Bodhisattvas**

Monday, March 3 : Mahāyāna thought & Bodhisattvas

Readings: Harvey 114–150

Wednesday, March 5: 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 Thursday March 6 at 4:00 pm!**

**Week 10: Meditation and Liberation**

Monday, March 10: Meditation and ways to liberation

Readings: Harvey 318–340

Wednesday, March 12: Meditation and ways to liberation continued & Writing Tips

Readings: None

**\*\* Quiz 9 goes live. Due Thursday March 13 at 4:00 pm!**

**\*\* Take-home Assignment (Mindfulness) Due Thursday March 13 at 4:00 pm!**

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

Monday, March 17: Buddhism in China, Korea, Vietnam

Readings: Harvey 210–226

Wednesday, March 19: Buddhism in China

Readings: *The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*: Chapter One (17–27)

**\*\* Bonus quiz goes live. Due Thursday March 27 at 4:00 pm!**

**Week 12: Buddhism in East Asia: Japan**

Monday, March 24: Buddhism in Japan

Readings: Harvey 226–236; Harvey 361–375

Wednesday, March 26:

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

**\*\*Written Assignment Due Thursday, March 27 at 4:00 pm!!**

### **Week 13: Tantra and Buddhism in Tibet**

Monday, March 31: Tantra, Liberation in this life, Buddhism in Tibet

Readings: Harvey, 180–193; 202–210

Wednesday, April 2: Yogis and the biography of Milarepa

Readings: Milarepa: [https://treasuryoflives.org/biographies/view/Milarepa/TBRC\\_P1853](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 4:00 pm!**

**\*\* Bonus quiz goes live. Due Thursday Apr. 3 at 4:00 pm!**

### **Week 14: Review**

April 7: Review; Final Assignment Distribution

**\*\*Final Assignment Due April 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Evaluation:**

*Participation (10%)*

- On the Wednesday 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 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 22, 2024. The specific dates are:

Buddha Quotation Assignment (**Due February 6, 2025**)

Jātaka Assignment (**Due February 27, 2025**)

Mindfulness Assignment (**Due March 13, 2025**)

Dalai Lama Assignment (**Due April 9, 2025**)

### *Online Quizzes (25%) Due Dates Given Above*

- 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 Brightspace and are asynchronous. They will go live on Wednesday, and be due within 24 hours (Thursday at 4:00 pm).

### *Written Assignment (20%): Due March 27, 2025*

- 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### *Final Assignment (30%): Due April 26, 2025*

- 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.

### Additional Evaluation Information

- All assignments will be submitted through Brightspace
- Students should not use AI tools for any of the assignments or quizzes
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. 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.

## **University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses** (Updated November 22,2024)

### **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.

## 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.

## Online Learning Resources

[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.

## Academic Integrity Policy

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*”

This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

### **Co-operation or Collaboration**

An important and valuable component of the learning process is the progress a student can make as a result of interacting with other students. In struggling together to master similar concepts and problems and in being exposed to each other’s views and approaches, a group of students can enhance and speed up the learning process. Carleton University encourages

students to benefit from these activities which will not generally be viewed as a violation of the Policy. With the exception of tests and examinations, instructors will not normally limit these interactions.

Students shall not co-operate or collaborate on academic work when the instructor has indicated that the work is to be completed on an individual basis. Failure to follow the instructor's directions in this regard is a violation of the standards of academic integrity. Unless otherwise indicated, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of a test or examination.

**Group Work:** There are many cases where students are expected or required to work in groups to complete a course requirement. Normally, students are not responsible for violations of this policy committed by other members of a group in which they participate. **More information on the process [here](#).**

## Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

### Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes can be [found here](#).

### Addressing Human Rights Concerns

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the

University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](mailto:equity@carleton.ca) at [equity@carleton.ca](mailto:equity@carleton.ca).



## Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. 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 can be found [here](#).

## 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.

## Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made

in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's

self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.

1. 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 extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), 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.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#).
4. If academic consideration is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. (More information: [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#)).

## Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), 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 (3) working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must include the University's self-declaration form, which can be found on [the Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of 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](#).

## Academic Consideration Policy

As per the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), if students encounter extenuating circumstances that temporarily hinder their capacity to fulfil in-class academic requirements, they can request academic consideration. The Academic Consideration for Coursework is only available for accommodations regarding course work. Requests for accommodations during the formal exam period must follow the [official deferral process](#).

NOTE: As per the Policy, students are to speak with/contact their instructor before submitting a request for Academic Consideration. Requests are not automatically approved. Approving and determining the accommodation remains at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult the course syllabus about the instructor's policy or procedures for requesting academic consideration. [More information here](#).

## Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

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. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and bringing down your CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published [deadlines](#) (see Academic Withdrawal).

If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the "Calculate amount to pay" button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

## Mental Health and Wellness at Carleton

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

## Emergency Resources (on and off campus)

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. •  
For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

## Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

## Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389 or connect online at <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/> • The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

## The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

The Centre for Indigenous Initiatives is proud to offer culturally centered individual counselling to students who self-identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuk. Through this service, Indigenous students [can access confidential, individual sessions for support with personal, mental health or academic challenges.](#)

## Department Contact Information

**Bachelor of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall [CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall [GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall  
[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

**Digital Humanities (Graduate)** 2A39 Paterson Hall [digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

**Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor)** 300 Paterson Hall  
[digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

**MEMS (Undergraduate Minor)** 300 Paterson Hall  
[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)